

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

**Green Zone invaded  
by punk Vandals  
for New Year's**

Page 10

**Snubbed by BCS,  
Cal is flattened by  
Texas Tech**

Page 29



Texas Tech  
quarterback  
Senny Cumbie

**Insurgents threaten  
Iraqi teacher after  
U.S. troops visit school**

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Volume 2, No. 265 © SS 2004 MIDEAST EDITION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2005

# Allawi tells neighbors to tighten borders

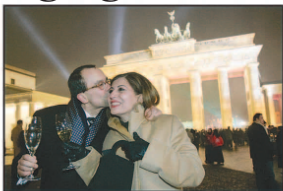
Strong statement calls for end to insurgents entering Iraq Page 8



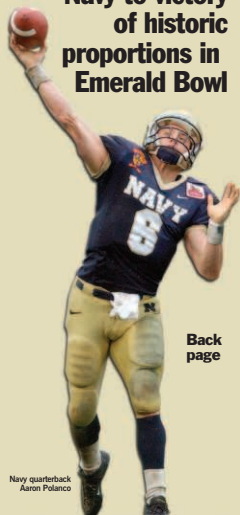
## Ringin' in '05

Clockwise from  
top: Coalition  
forces  
celebrate the  
new year in  
Afghanistan;  
fireworks light  
up the Space  
Needle in  
Seattle; lovers  
share a New  
Year's kiss  
in Berlin.

AP photos



**Polanco sparks  
Navy to victory  
of historic  
proportions in  
Emerald Bowl**



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Navy quarterback  
Aaron Polanco

- Revisit 2004 in words and pictures Pages 3-5
- 2005 welcomed around the world Page 14

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Command  
for today's  
copy of Stars  
and Stripes.



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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

### States

**Aircraft-laser probe:** A laser beam was aimed at a police helicopter Friday — one of several incidents involving aircraft across the country in the past week — and federal authorities were questioning someone who had been at a house where they said the light had originated.

Officials said no one was hurt when the laser hit the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey police helicopter as it flew over an area where a similar incident occurred Wednesday.

Soon after, Port Authority officials and the FBI went to a Parsippany, N.J., home where they had tracked the laser beam and were questioning a person there in connection with both incidents, said Steve Coleman, an authority spokesman.

No charges had been filed as of late Friday night, Coleman said.

**FBI whistleblower:** A career FBI agent from Minneapolis who rocked official Washington with a blistering memo to the boss alleging bureau bungling before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks has retired from the agency.

Coleen Rowley, who was named one of Time magazine's Persons of the Year for 2002 for her whistleblowing efforts, retired Friday, 11 days after turning 50 — when she became eligible for a full pension, the Star Tribune reported.

Rowley, who worked for the FBI for 24 years, said she has no immediate plans, but wants to be considered for appointment to a new federal board that will ensure counterterrorism investigations and arrests do not infringe on people's rights. The law overhauling the nation's intelligence apparatus directs the Department of Homeland Security to create the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board.

**Anna Nicole's millions:** Anna Nicole Smith's lawyer vowed to ask a federal appeals court to reconsider after it ruled that the former Playboy model turned reality TV star is not entitled to \$88.5 million from her late husband, an oil tycoon who married her when he was nearly 90.

Howard K. Stern said Thursday he would ask the full appeals court to rehear the case and would appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court if necessary.

Smith, who first gained fame as Playboy's 1993 Playmate of the Year, was 26 when she and oilman J. Howard Marshall II married in 1994. He was 89. They had met three years earlier when she was working as a stripper.

Marshall died in 1995, and Smith and Marshall's son, E. Pierce Marshall, have battled over his estate ever since.

A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that a Texas probate court's decision that the son was the oilman's sole heir should stand. The panel said the federal judge in California who ruled in Smith's favor in 2002 should never have even heard the case.

### World

**Sudan's civil war:** Sudan's government signed a preliminary peace deal Friday with rebels from the country's south, ending one



**Political controversy in Pakistan:** Protesters hold a banner that reads "Black Day against pro-U.S. policies and western agenda" on Saturday in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. Secular and religious groups held nationwide protest rallies to condemn the decision by President Gen. Pervez Musharraf to retain the powerful post of army chief. Despite hundreds of people participating in in Karachi and other major cities, the demonstrations did not attract the thousands of protesters that organizers had hoped for, and none of the country's top opposition leaders attended.

step closer to a comprehensive accord with end Africa's longest running civil war.

But the continuing violence in the western region of Darfur cast a shadow over celebrations.

Delegates from the warring sides initiated the two final chapters of an eight-part pact that spell out a power-sharing agreement and a permanent cease-fire.

The agreement, three years in the making, gives the southern rebels seats in the government, and guarantees them a stream of revenue from the country's oil wealth to spur development. It also integrates the militaries, and grants the southern region a chance to opt for self-determination after six years.

A final peace accord is set for Jan. 9 in Nairobi, Kenya, where rebel leader John Garang and Vice President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha will sign all eight parts of the peace deal.

**Ukraine election turmoil:** Viktor Yanukovich vowed to fight on for Ukraine's presidency, despite handing the opposition of this ex-Soviet Republic a begrudging victory by announcing his resignation as prime minister.

His opponent, Western-leaning opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko, soundly won last weekend's court-ordered presidential vote, but Yanukovich has refused to concede, vowing to challenge the results in the Supreme Court. Under Ukrainian election law, Yushchenko cannot be declared president until all appeals against the voting are exhausted.

The pro-Russian Yanukovich announced his resignation as prime minister on Friday in a televised address. His first significant concession since losing Sunday's vote, but said he will maintain his claim to the presidency.

**China after SARS:** China's tourism industry rebounded strongly in the wake of SARS last year, with a nearly 20 percent increase in foreign arrivals and a 50 percent surge in revenues, the government said Saturday.

Some 99 million foreign tourists arrived in China between January and November last year, a 19.6 percent rise from the same period a year earlier, the official Xinhua News Agency reported, citing China's National Tourism Administration.

The report said that arrivals in the first 11

months of 2004 also exceeded the arrivals for all of 2002, but no figure was provided.

Severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, infected more than 8,000 people worldwide and killed 774 in 2003, the vast majority in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

During the height of the outbreak, China's tourism industry came to a near halt as authorities sought to contain the disease's spread and tourists stayed home.

**Civil war in Uganda:** Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni on Saturday said the army will resume all-out war on rebels in northern Uganda, charging that the insurgents rejected a cease-fire deal that had been expected to open the way for political talks on ending the 18-year civil war.

The government, however, will continue negotiating with the rebels in an effort to find a political solution to the conflict in which thousands have been killed and more than a million forced from their homes, Museveni said during New Year's celebrations.

The Lord's Resistance Army rebels have waged a campaign of murder, rape and abductions in northern Uganda. Led by the elusive Joseph Kony, they replenish their ranks by abducting children and forcing them to become fighters, porters or concubines.

**Taiwan independence:** Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian described rival China's plans for an anti-secession law as a threat to regional security in his New Year message Saturday.

China's parliament, the National People's Congress, will discuss plans for the law at its full session convening on March 5. Beijing says the law is aimed at pushing Taiwan to unite with the mainland.

China and Taiwan split during civil war in 1949. The mainland still considers the self-ruling, democratic island its territory and has threatened force if Taiwan makes its de facto independence permanent.

In his speech to senior government leaders, Chen accused Beijing of drawing up the law to find a pretext for military moves against Taiwan.

"[The law] now is only unilaterally changes the currently peaceful cross-strait status quo, but also forms the biggest threat to regional stability and world peace," Chen said.

Stories and photos from wire services



### The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — A month-by-month chronology of notable news in 2004, including the AP's Top Ten stories of the year (noted below), AP's list was compiled in mid-December, before the deadly tsunami in Asia.

## January

- Jan. 1 — The first commercial flight between India and Pakistan in two years arrives in New Delhi, India.
- Jan. 3 — NASA's Mars rover, Spirit, touches down on Mars; a Flash Airlines charter jet full of French tourists returning home from Egyptian vacations crashes into the Red Sea, killing at least 148 people aboard.
- Jan. 4 — Georgians overwhelmingly elect Mikhail Saakashvili as president, two months after he led protests that forced Eduard Shevardnadze to step down.
- Jan. 5 — China confirms its first SARS case since an outbreak of the disease was contained in July 2003 and orders the slaughter of some 10,000 civet cats and related species.
- Jan. 8 — A U.S. Black Hawk Medevac helicopter crashes near Fallujah, Iraq, killing all nine soldiers aboard; Libya agrees to compensate family members of victims of a 1989 bombing of a French UTA passenger plane over the Niger desert that killed 170 people.
- Jan. 14 — Libya has ratified the nuclear test ban treaty, a Vienna-based U.N. agency announces.
- Jan. 17 — A roadside bomb north of Baghdad kills three U.S. soldiers and two Iraqi civil defense troops, raising the U.S. death toll since the beginning of military operations in Iraq to 500.
- Iraq was AP's No. 2 story of the year. Throughout 2004, Iraq was a striking mix of bloody turmoil and tantalizing promise. Anti-American insurgents wreaked havoc with car bombings and videotaped beatings of hostages, the death toll for U.S. military forces passed 1,200, and the toll of Iraqi civilians was many times higher. Yet Iraq's interim leaders doggedly proceeded with plans for national elections early in the new year.
- Jan. 18 — A suicide truck bombing outside the headquarters of the U.S.-led coalition in Baghdad kills at least 31 people and injures more than 60 in the deadliest attack in the Iraqi capital since Saddam Hussein's capture in December.
- Jan. 24 — NASA's Opportunity rover lands on Mars, arriving at the Red Planet exactly three weeks after its identical twin landed.
- Jan. 25 — Mikhail Saakashvili is inaugurated as Georgia's president.
- Jan. 28 — A judge orders British Prime Minister Tony Blair's administration of any direct involvement in Iraq of a government expert on Iraq weapons.

## February

- Feb. 1 — Twin suicide bombers kill 109 people at two Kurdish party offices in Irbil, Iraq; a stampede during a storming rally at the annual Muslim pilgrimage in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, kills at least 251 worshippers.
- Feb. 2 — Israel kills the leader of Islamic Jihad and three other militants in a Gaza raid; an 11-story apartment building collapses in Konya, Turkey, killing 90 people.
- Feb. 5 — Pakistan's president pardons the country's top nuclear scientist for leaking weapons technology to Iraq, Libya and North Korea.
- Feb. 6 — An explosion rips through a Moscow subway car during rush hour, killing 41 people and wounding more than 100.
- Feb. 7 — Sri Lanka's President Chandrika Kumaratunga dissolves Parliament and calls April 2 elections, more than three years ahead of schedule.
- Feb. 9 — Anti-government rebels take control of at least nine towns in western Iraq as the death toll in the violent uprising rises to at least 40.
- Feb. 10 — A truck bomb outside a police station in Iskandariyah, Iraq, kills 53 people; an Iranian plane crashes in the United Arab Emirates, killing at least 43 people.
- Feb. 11 — A car bomb at an army recruiting center in Baghdad kills 47.
- Feb. 12 — In an open challenge to California law, San Francisco authorities perform scores of same-sex weddings and issue a stack of marriage licenses to gay and lesbian couples.
- Gay marriage was AP's No. 6 story of the year. From coast to coast, gay marriage was a volatile topic. Massachusetts became the first state to have legal, same-sex weddings, and local officials in several places

- including San Francisco and Portland, Ore. — also wed gay and lesbian couples before courts intervened. However, each time the issue reached the ballot — in 13 states in all — voters decisively approved constitutional amendments banning gay marriage.
- Feb. 15 — A shopping mall fire kills at least 83 people in northeastern China.
- Feb. 22 — Rebels capture Haiti's second-largest city, claiming Cap-Haitien as their biggest prize in a two-week uprising that has driven government forces from half the country.
- Feb. 23 — The Palestinians open their case against Israel's West Bank barrier in the world court.
- Feb. 24 — Russian President Vladimir Putin dismisses his prime minister and all other Cabinet ministers in preparation for March's presidential vote; a 6.5-magnitude earthquake devastates an isolated region of northern Morocco, killing more than 560 people.
- Feb. 26 — Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski is killed in a plane crash in southern Bosnia.
- Feb. 29 — Haiti's President Jean-Bertrand Aristide resigns and goes into exile in the Central African Republic.



Rescue workers line up bodies beside a bomb-damaged passenger train at Atotcha station following a number of explosions on trains in Madrid on March 11. The toll from the bombings was 190 dead and more than 1,400 injured.

## March

- March 1 — Rebels roll into Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, and are met by hundreds of residents cheering the ouster of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.
- March 2 — A series of coordinated blasts kills 181 people at shrines in Karbala and Baghdad as thousands of Shiite Muslim pilgrims gather for a religious festival.
- March 4 — Moubarik el Motassadeq, a Moroccan and the only person in the world convicted in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, wins a retrial in a German appeals court; Horst Koehler, head of the International Monetary Fund, announces his resignation to become a candidate for the German presidency.
- March 5 — Michael Steward, an American celebrity humanitarian, is convicted of obstructing justice and lying to the government about a sale.
- March 7 — Fourteen Palestinians are killed in the deadliest Israeli raid in Gaza in 17 months.
- March 8 — Iraq's Governing Council signs a landmark interim constitution.
- March 9 — Gerard Latour, a former U.N. official, becomes Haiti's interim prime minister.
- March 11 — Ten bombs explode in quick succession across the commuter rail network in Madrid, Spain, killing 190 people and wounding more than 1,400.
- The Madrid bombings were AP's No. 10 story of the year. Soon after the attack, which was blamed on Islamic militants, angry voters ousted Spain's pro-American conservative government in favor of the Socialist Party, which promptly withdrew Spanish troops from Iraq.
- March 12 — South Korea's parliament impeaches President Roh Moo-hyun on charges of illegal electioneering and incompetence, stripping him of his constitutional powers.
- March 14 — The opposition Socialists score a dramatic upset win in Spain's general election, unseating conservatives slung by charges they provoked the Madrid terror bombings by supporting the U.S.-led war in Iraq and making Spain a target for al-Qaida; Russian President Vladimir Putin wins a second term.
- March 15 — Former Italian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide returns to the Caribbean from African exile after winning temporary asylum in Jamaica; a drive-by shooting in Mosul, Iraq, kills four American missionaries.
- March 16 — China declares victory in its fight against bird flu, saying it has "stamped out" all its known cases, while a factory worker in Thailand becomes Asia's 23rd victim of the virus.
- March 17 — Haiti's new U.S.-backed Cabinet takes office without a single member of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's party.
- March 18 — NATO sends U.S. and Italian reinforcements to Kosovo after fighting between Serbs and ethnic Albanians kills 22 people and wounds hundreds — the worst violence since the province's war five years ago.
- March 19 — A judge in Spain jails the main suspect in the Madrid bombings and four alleged accomplices on terrorism charges.
- March 20 — Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian narrowly wins re-election.

- March 20 — The U.S. military charges six soldiers with abusing inmates at Abu Ghraib prison on the western outskirts of Baghdad.
- The Abu Ghraib scandal, in which photographs came to light showing U.S. military guards at the Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad forcing naked Iraqi detainees to pose in humiliating positions, was AP's No. 4 story of the year. Prosecutions ensued, and the scandal fueled anti-American sentiment in the Muslim world.
- March 22 — Israel kills Hamas founder Ahmad Yassin in a helicopter missile strike outside a Gaza City mosque; incumbent Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is sworn in as Malaysia's prime minister after a landslide election victory.
- March 24 — The European Union slaps Microsoft Corp. with a \$6.1 million fine for exercising a monopoly with its Windows software and orders sanctions that go well beyond a U.S. antitrust settlement.
- March 25 — Rebels seize the main opposition party pull out of Ivory Coast's power-sharing government after 25 people die in deadly clashes between security forces and opposition supporters.
- March 31 — Prieded crowds drag the burned, mutilated bodies of four American contractors through Fallujah, Iraq, and string two of them up from a bridge after rebels ambush their SUVs.
- March 31 — The world court rules that the United States has violated the rights of 51 Mexicans on death row to receive diplomatic help, and orders Washington to review their cases.

## YEAR, FROM PAGE 3

## April

**April 2** — Seven Eastern European countries — Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Lithuania, Slovenia, Latvia and Estonia — join NATO in the largest expansion of the alliance in its 55-year history; the political alliance led by President Chirac's administration wins the largest number of seats in Sri Lanka's parliamentary elections; the U.N. Security Council throws its weight behind talks aimed at halting a year-old conflict in western Sudan, calling on the government and opposition groups to halt fighting for humanitarian reasons and to settle their dispute politically. The conflict in the Darfur region has taken hundreds of thousands of people from their homes in a campaign one U.N. official says is "ethnic cleansing."

**April 3** — Surrounded by police, three suspects in the Madrid railway bombings blow themselves up in a building outside Madrid, killing one special forces soldier and wounding 11 police officers.

**April 4** — The American military death toll in Iraq rises to at least 610.

**April 5** — Flash floods kill at least 34 in northern Mexico; Sri Lanka's prime minister approves veteran politician Mahinda Rajapaksa as prime minister.

**April 6** — China issues a major ruling on how Hong Kong chooses its leaders, saying the territory must submit proposed political reforms to Beijing for approval. Jordan's military court convicts eight Muslim militants and sentences them to death for the 2002 killing of a U.S. aid official in a terror conspiracy linked to al-Qaida; lawmakers cut Lithuania's scandal-ridden president Rolandas Paksas for abuse of office, ending the country's worst political crisis since it gained independence from Moscow.

**April 7** — The only Sept. 11, 2001, suspect ever convicted is freed after a Hamburg, Germany, court rules that the evidence is too weak to hold him pending a retrial.

**April 8** — Iraqi insurgents seize a dozen foreign hostages in Iraq, threatening to burn three Japanese captives alive if Japan does not withdraw its troops.

**April 9** — About 40 foreign hostages from 12 countries are being held by Iraqi insurgents, a coalition spokesman reports.

**April 14** — President Bush endorses Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to pull out of Gaza and parts of the West Bank as "historic and courageous actions"; the Italian government confirms the execution of an Italian hostage by its Iraqi abductors; two more Japanese are abducted in Iraq.

**April 15** — Iraqi militants free three Japanese hostages after holding them about a week.

**April 17** — Israeli assassinate Hamas leader Abdel Aziz Rantzi in a missile strike on his car; Iraqi insurgents free two Japanese hostages abducted on April 14.

**April 19** — Spain's Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero orders a withdrawal of Spanish troops from Iraq, killing a campaign pledge to try to calm his uneasy relations after spaces carrying 1100 people in Madrid, a Russian and a Dutch man to the international space station, the third manned mission since the NASA of the U.S. shuttle program.

**April 20** — The hubble launches a \$750 million satellite conceived under the Eisenhower administration to test two of Albert Einstein's fundamental predictions about the universe.

**April 21** — Five suicide attackers detonate car bombs against police buildings in Basra, Iraq, killing 74 people and wounding 60; a Guatemalan man, described by U.S. authorities as Central America's most-wanted drug smuggler, is executed in Madrid; the U.S. State Department says the third mission since the Sept. 11 attacks.

**April 22** — The U.S. State Department says the third mission since the Sept. 11 attacks.

**April 24** — Suicide bomb attacks against Iraqi oil facilities in the Persian Gulf, killing three Americans and disabling Iraq's biggest terminal for more than 24 hours.

**April 26** — Mainland China rules Hong Kong will have direct elections for its next leader, and for all its lawmakers; in 2008, U.S. soldiers roll into a base in the Shiite holy city of Najaf to replace withdrawing Spanish troops; a Jordanian militant with links to al-Qaida claims responsibility for the April 24 suicide bomb attacks against Persian Gulf oil terminals.

**April 27** — A Moroccan soldier is caught in connection with the Madrid train bombings in Iraq is indicted in Madrid, Spain, on charges of helping plan the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks; the U.S. State Department acquires nine Monrovia of plotting to attack the U.S. Embassy in Rome; a bombing in the U.S. State Department.

**April 30** — Ten countries — Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Cyprus and Malta — join the European Union in a historic enlargement; a U.S. federal appeals court rules that retired astronaut John Demjanjuk was a Nazi guard, and is not eligible to obtain U.S. citizenship.

## May

**May 2** — Martin Torrijos, the son of a former dictator, wins Panama's first presidential vote since the handover of the Panama Canal in December 1999; Jordan's Prime Minister Zaid al-Rikabi declares that his government is paralyzed by unpopularity, and is succeeded by former finance minister Mubarak Bekka.

**May 3** — Picasso's 1905 painting "Boy with a Pipe" sells for \$104 million at Sotheby's in New York, breaking the record for an auctioned painting.

**May 6** — Asian Abkhazians, hardline leader of Georgia's renegade Abkhazian republic, fires anti-aircraft missiles against a Russian bridge connecting the region with the rest of Georgia; Libyan court sentences six Bulgarian migrants to death on charges that they intentionally infected more than 400 children with the AIDS virus; militants from a predominantly Christian tribe kill at least 500 people in two attacks on a Muslim town in central Nigeria.

**May 7** — A federal judge dismisses nearly half the U.S. government's case against Pavlo Lazarenko, a former Ukrainian prime minister charged with embezzling \$100 million from his country.

**May 8** — A U.S. military spokesman says that the U.S. government is engaged in a photographic mission and painting at naked Iraq prisoners in the Abu Ghraib prison, is charged by the military with assaulting the detainees; a U.S. military spokesman says that the U.S. government is engaged in a photographic mission and painting at naked Iraq prisoners in the Abu Ghraib prison, is charged by the military with assaulting the detainees; a U.S. military spokesman says that the U.S. government is engaged in a photographic mission and painting at naked Iraq prisoners in the Abu Ghraib prison, is charged by the military with assaulting the detainees.

**May 12** — Insurgents burst out of a pipeline in southern Iraq, setting off a firestorm and slaughtering at least 40 oil workers by about 25 percent, or 450,000 barrels per day.

**May 13** — A bomb destroys the VIP section at a stadium during a Victory Day parade in the Chechen capital of Grozny, killing 24 people, including the province's president Ahmad Kadyrov.

**May 12** — Muslim mobs attack Christians in the streets of Kano, Nigeria, as security forces struggle to quell a two-day rampage to avenge a massacre of hundreds of Nigerian Muslims.



**Gay couple Stuart Gaffney, left, and John Lewis protest in front of the California Supreme Court on Aug. 12 in San Francisco. The debate over whether same-sex couples are entitled to the right to marry was a volatile topic throughout the year. However, each time the issue reached a ballot — in 13 states in all — voters decisively approved constitutional amendments banning gay marriage.**

**May 13** — Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee resigns after his governing coalition loses Parliament elections, after nearly six years in power; Libya announces its decision to halt military trade with North Korea, Syria and Iran.

**May 14** — A South Korean court reinstates impeached President Roh Moo-hyun; London's Daily Mirror newspaper apologizes for publishing faked photographs of abducted U.S. Marines by British troops in Iraq; the U.S. State Department says the third mission since the Sept. 11 attacks.

**May 16** — The United States announces a new initiative to speed up the approval process for new combination AIDS drugs that will bring cheap, easy-to-use treatment to millions of people in Africa and the Caribbean.

**May 17** — Abdel-Zahran Othman, also known as Izzadin Saleem, the head of the Iraqi Governing Council, is killed in a suicide car bombing in Baghdad.

**May 19** — Mamnoon Ghani, a 71-year-old technocrat, is named India's next prime minister by the president.

**May 23** — A river ferry carrying about 250 passengers capsizes during a storm in eastern Bangladesh, killing at least 74 people; the vaunted U.S. new terminal at Paris' Charles de Gaulle airport comes crashing down, killing four people; Horst Koehler, a former head of the International Monetary Fund, is elected Germany's ninth postwar president.

**May 24** — Flooding of rain-swollen rivers in the Dominican Republic and Haiti kills more than 1,400 people.

**May 25** — Sudan's government and rebels sign key agreements, resolving the last remaining issues needed to end Africa's longest-running war.

**May 27** — Abu Hamza al-Masri, a Muslim cleric whose neo-shiite London mosque attracted 50,000 U.S. troops, is killed in a suicide bombing; a shoe bomber Richard Reid, is arrested in London on charges of trying to bring a terrorist training camp in Oregon.

**May 28** — The Iraqi Governing Council's Yusef al-Alawi as prime minister of the country's interim government.

**May 29** — The U.S. State Department says that the U.S. government is engaged in a photographic mission and painting at naked Iraq prisoners in the Abu Ghraib prison, is charged by the military with assaulting the detainees; a U.S. military spokesman says that the U.S. government is engaged in a photographic mission and painting at naked Iraq prisoners in the Abu Ghraib prison, is charged by the military with assaulting the detainees.

**May 30** — Qatari Ambassador to the United States Ahmad bin Ali al-Thani, is killed in a suicide car bombing in Baghdad.

**May 31** — A U.S. military spokesman says that the U.S. government is engaged in a photographic mission and painting at naked Iraq prisoners in the Abu Ghraib prison, is charged by the military with assaulting the detainees; a U.S. military spokesman says that the U.S. government is engaged in a photographic mission and painting at naked Iraq prisoners in the Abu Ghraib prison, is charged by the military with assaulting the detainees.

## June

**June 1** — Ghazi Mahdi al-Awadi, a powerful Sunni Muslim tribal leader and critic of the U.S.-led occupation, is named president of Iraq's incoming government.

**June 2** — Three foreign aid workers and two Afghans are shot and killed in an ambush in northern Afghanistan in an attack claimed by resurgent Taliban militants.

**June 3** — CIA Director George Tenet resigns after a controversy over intelligence lapses about suspected weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

**June 4** — Former President Ronald Reagan, whose struggle with Alzheimer's disease had kept him out of the public eye for a decade, dies at 93. Reagan's death was AP's No. 8 story of the year. Americans responded with an outpouring of affection and respect for their 40th president. His state funeral in Washington brought the country together at least briefly in a year otherwise marked by bitter partisan divisions.

**June 5** — A U.S. military spokesman says that the U.S. government is engaged in a photographic mission and painting at naked Iraq prisoners in the Abu Ghraib prison, is charged by the military with assaulting the detainees; a U.S. military spokesman says that the U.S. government is engaged in a photographic mission and painting at naked Iraq prisoners in the Abu Ghraib prison, is charged by the military with assaulting the detainees.

**June 6** — An Irish in Myanmar working for the British Broadcasting Corp. is killed in an shooting in Ceylon, Saudi Arabia.

**June 8** — An American who worked for a U.S. defense contractor is shot and killed in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; the second deadly shooting of a Westerner in the kingdom in three days.

**June 10** — Continent-wide, four-day voting for the European Parliament begins with some 14,870 candidates at 25 national runoffs for 732 seats.

**June 14** — A car bomb explodes during rush hour on a busy street in Baghdad, killing 12 people — five of them foreigners working to rebuild Iraq's power plant.

**June 15** — Israel's attorney general drops a corruption case against Ariel Sharon, ending months of uncertainty over the prime minister's political future and boosting chances for an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

**June 16** — A car bomb explodes during rush hour on a busy street in Baghdad, killing 12 people — five of them foreigners working to rebuild Iraq's power plant.

**June 16** — The independent commission investigating the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks says no evidence exists that al-Qaida had strong ties to Saddam Hussein.

**June 17** — A car bomb explodes outside the Iraqi oil field intelligence center, killing at least 25 people and wounding 130.

**June 18** — An al-Qaida group says it killed American hostage Paul M. Johnson Jr., and posts photos on the Internet showing his body and severed head, a rocket plane and a car. The group also claims to have killed a U.S. Navy pilot, and says it will release the pilot's body if the U.S. releases the pilot's body.

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**June 21** — Iran seizes three British military patrol boats in the Shatt-al-Arab waterway, Iraq's main link with the Gulf, and detains eight armed crewmen for entering Iranian territorial waters.

**June 26** — Taliban fighters kill up to 16 men after learning that they have registered for Afghanistan's U.S.-backed national elections, the deadliest attack yet in a campaign aimed at subverting the nation's first free vote.

**June 27** — A U.S. military spokesman says that the U.S. government is engaged in a photographic mission and painting at naked Iraq prisoners in the Abu Ghraib prison, is charged by the military with assaulting the detainees; a U.S. military spokesman says that the U.S. government is engaged in a photographic mission and painting at naked Iraq prisoners in the Abu Ghraib prison, is charged by the military with assaulting the detainees.

**June 28** — The U.S.-led invasion restores sovereignty to an interim Iraqi government; Canada's Liberal Party loses its control of Parliament, but wins the largest share of seats to lead the country's first minority government in 25 years.

**June 30** — A U.N. helicopter crashes in Sierra Leone, killing all 24 peacekeepers, aid workers and others on board.

**June 30** — The Iraqi take legal custody of Saddam Hussein and 11 of his top lieutenants. The first step toward the ouster of Saddam's expected trial for crimes against humanity, after nearly seven years of travel, the international Cassin spacecraft enters orbit around Saturn.

## July

**July 1** — Saddam Hussein scoffs in Iraq at charges of war crimes and mass killings, making a defiant first public appearance since being hauled down seven months ago.

**July 2** — Iraq's Iraqis are charged with war crimes; the company has reportedly promised to stop working with the U.S. military in Iraq to win their release.

**July 4** — A 20-ton slab of granite is laid at the World Trade Center site as the cornerstone of the skyscraper that will replace the destroyed towers; saboteurs blast a strategic crude oil pipeline that runs from Iraq's northern oil fields to the Persian Gulf.

**July 7** — A Yemeni suicide court charges six Yemenis in the planning of the October 2000 bombing of the USS Cole.

**July 8** — A U.S. military spokesman says that the U.S. government is engaged in a photographic mission and painting at naked Iraq prisoners in the Abu Ghraib prison, is charged by the military with assaulting the detainees; a U.S. military spokesman says that the U.S. government is engaged in a photographic mission and painting at naked Iraq prisoners in the Abu Ghraib prison, is charged by the military with assaulting the detainees.

**July 9** — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's Cabinet resigns and the longtime leader appoints a relative outsider, Ahmed Nazif, as prime minister, further consolidating his power; the highest U.N. court rules that Israel's planned 425-mile-long barrier in the West Bank violates international law and urges the United Nations to take action to stop its construction.

**July 12** — France and Iraq restore diplomatic relations that were severed 13 years ago during the Gulf War.

**July 13** — A disabled militant who is billed as a close confidant to Osama bin Laden sundered under a Saudi amnesty offer, the most important figure to turn himself in for his part.

**July 14** — A suicide attacker detonates a massive car bomb at a checkpoint in Baghdad, killing 11 people and wounding 40.

**July 16** — American domestic entrepreneur Marianne Stewart is headed to prison for a life sentence for a 1997 murder; a U.S. military spokesman says that the U.S. government is engaged in a photographic mission and painting at naked Iraq prisoners in the Abu Ghraib prison, is charged by the military with assaulting the detainees; a U.S. military spokesman says that the U.S. government is engaged in a photographic mission and painting at naked Iraq prisoners in the Abu Ghraib prison, is charged by the military with assaulting the detainees.

**July 19** — A 182-carat diamond that a young miner dug up in southeast Guinea is valued at \$10 million; a U.S. military spokesman says that the U.S. government is engaged in a photographic mission and painting at naked Iraq prisoners in the Abu Ghraib prison, is charged by the military with assaulting the detainees; a U.S. military spokesman says that the U.S. government is engaged in a photographic mission and painting at naked Iraq prisoners in the Abu Ghraib prison, is charged by the military with assaulting the detainees.

**July 20** — A Filipino truck driver is freed by Iraqi insurgents a day after the Philippines withdraws its last troops; the U.N. General Assembly overwhelmingly adopts a resolution demanding that Israel comply with a world court decision and tear down the barrier it is building to seal off the West Bank.

**July 22** — A high-speed passenger train derails in southwestern Turkey, killing 37 people and injuring 81.

**July 23** — Militants in Iraq launch an Egyptian diplomatic hostage and demand his country's release any plans it has to send security experts to Iraq.

**July 25** — Lance Armstrong wins a record sixth Tour de France; Pakistani arrests Ahmed Khalifa Ghallani, a Tanzanian al-Qaida suspect wanted by the United States in the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

**July 26** — Mohammed Mandooh Helmi Quib, an Egyptian diplomat held hostage by militants in Iraq for three days, is released after successful negotiations.

**July 27** — Four French detainees held by U.S. authorities for more than two years at Guantanamo Bay return home — the first French nationals to be released since the Sept. 11 attacks; a U.S. military spokesman says that the U.S. government is engaged in a photographic mission and painting at naked Iraq prisoners in the Abu Ghraib prison, is charged by the military with assaulting the detainees; a U.S. military spokesman says that the U.S. government is engaged in a photographic mission and painting at naked Iraq prisoners in the Abu Ghraib prison, is charged by the military with assaulting the detainees.

**July 28** — A car bomb explodes outside a police station used as a recruiting center in Baquba, Iraq, killing 70 Iraqis and wounding more than 90.



# YEAR, FROM PAGE 4

## August

- Aug. 1 — A supermarket fire on the outskirts of Asuncion, Paraguay, kills more than 400 people.
- Aug. 3 — The Statue of Liberty pedestal in New York City responds to the public for the first time since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks; Pakistan announces arrests of two Qaeda terrorists, one with a multimillion-dollar U.S. bounty on his head.
- Aug. 5 — Two-year-old twins from the Philippines born with the tops of their heads fused together are separated at Montefiore Medical Center in New York City.
- Aug. 9 — Oklahoma City bombing conspirator Terry Nichols is sentenced to life without the possibility of parole for his role in the worst act of domestic terrorism in U.S. history.
- Aug. 10 — The retreat of Mounir el Motassadeq, the only Sept. 11, 2001, terror suspect ever convicted, opens in Hamburg, Germany.
- Aug. 12 — New Jersey Gov. James E. McGreevey announces his resignation, acknowledging that he had an extramarital affair with a woman.
- Aug. 13 — Hutu marauders raid a U.N. refugee camp in western Burundi, shooting and hacking at least 163 Congolese Tutsi to death.
- Aug. 15 — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez survives a referendum to oust him; Hurricane Charley leaves 31 people dead in Florida and causes \$7.4 billion in insured damage.
- Aug. 22 — American thieves steal the Edward Munch masterpiece "The Scream" and a second Munch painting, "Madonna," from the Munch museum in Oslo, Norway.
- Aug. 24 — Uzbekistan's Supreme Court sentences 15 of Osama-linked Islamic militants to as long as 18 years in prison for a series of bombings in the country that killed at least 47 people in March and April. Two Russian airlines crash almost simultaneously after taking off from the same Moscow airport, killing a total of 90 people.
- Aug. 28 — Islamic militants claiming to be holding two French journalists give France 48 hours to overturn the law that bans the wearing of Islamic headscarves in schools.
- Aug. 29 — Kremlin-favored candidate Alikhanov wins Chechnya's presidential election, succeeding Ahmad Kadyrov who was assassinated.
- Aug. 31 — Former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic opens his long-delayed defense in the second half of the U.N. war crimes trial in the Hague, Netherlands; Palestinian suicide bombers blow up two buses almost simultaneously in BeerSheva, Israel, killing at least 16 passengers and wounding more than 80.

## September

- Sept. 1 — A band of terrorists, believed led by a Chechen warrior, takes more than 1,000 people hostage at a Russian school. The seizure was AP's No. 9 story of the year. When the seizure ended on Sept. 3, about 800 captives and children, more than 330 hostages had been killed or were thought to be dead.
- Sept. 1 — Militants in Iraq fire seven炮弹 of a Kuwaiti tanking firm, which is later killed in Iraq.
- Sept. 1 — Former U.S. President Bill Clinton undergoes successful heart bypass surgery at a New York City hospital.
- Sept. 1 — Israeli helicopter attacks a Hamas training field in Gaza City, killing at least 14 militants and wounding 30. U.S. military field in the camp campaign last 1,000, Hurricane Frances kills 23 in Florida and causes \$4.1 billion in insured damage.
- Sept. 1 — The Genesis space capsule, which has orbited the sun for more than three years, crashes to Earth after its parachute fails to deploy.
- Sept. 1 — Hurricane Ivan gummies Grenada, Barbados, other Caribbean islands, and southern United States; storm is blamed for 121 deaths.
- Sept. 14 — Gunshots boom a Baghdad shopping street full of police recruits, killing at least 59 people.
- Sept. 15 — Three Americans — led by a former Green Beret who boasted he had helped suppress uprisings are found guilty of torturing Afghans in a private jail and sentenced to prison.
- Sept. 17 — Chechen warrior Shamal Basaev claims responsibility for a school hostage-taking and other attacks that have claimed more than 400 lives.
- Sept. 19 — Former Chinese President Jiang Zemin turns over his last major post as chairman of the commission that runs China's military, to his successor Hu Jintao, completing the country's first peaceful leadership transition since its 1949 revolution; militants decapitate three hostages believed to be Iraq Kurds in a videotape that surfaces hours after Iraq's prime minister says Iranian elections will be held on schedule.
- Sept. 19 — A videotape of a man claiming to be the purported beheading of a man identified as American construction contractor Eugene Armstrong.
- Sept. 21 — Tropical Storm Sierrita leaves nearly more than 1,800 people dead and nearly 900 missing, mostly in the Caribbean.
- Sept. 21 — Hundreds of Syrian soldiers stationed near Lebanon's capital begin dismantling their bases in an effort to appease a U.N. Security Council decision.
- Sept. 25 — The four major hurricanes that devastated Florida and other southern states were AP's No. 3 story of the year. The hurricanes — Frances, Ivan and Jeanne — killed 1,800 people, destroyed 2,500 homes and caused more than \$22 billion in insured losses. Not since 1888 had so many hurricanes in one season.
- Sept. 26 — The death toll from the 2004 hurricane and tropical storm season was more than 2,000; Hurricane Charley (United States 31, Cuba 4, Jamaica 1), Hurricane Frances (United States 23, Cuba 1), Hurricane Jeanne (United States 8), Hurricane Ivan (United States 25, Barbados 1, Cayman Islands 2, Dominican Republic 4, Grenada 39, Haiti 3, Jamaica 1), Hurricane Frances (United States 23, Cuba 1), Hurricane Jeanne (United States 8), Hurricane Ivan (United States 25, Barbados 1, Cayman Islands 2, Dominican Republic 4, Grenada 39, Haiti 3, Jamaica 1), Hurricane Frances (United States 23, Cuba 1), Hurricane Jeanne (United States 8), Hurricane Ivan (United States 25, Barbados 1, Cayman Islands 2, Dominican Republic 4, Grenada 39, Haiti 3, Jamaica 1).
- Sept. 26 — Pakistan forces kill a suspected top Qaeda operative wanted for his role in the Sept. 11 attacks and the Sept. 12, 2001, attack on the World Trade Center; a month of U.S. airstrikes on rebel-held Faluqah has killed more than 100 suspected insurgents; U.S. military officials announce.
- Sept. 26 — Two Indian and two Iraqi aid workers kidnapped in Iraq are freed three days later in captivity.
- Sept. 28 — A Saudi suspected of being an associate of Osama bin Laden and his militant are sentenced to death by firing squad for the bombing of the USS Cole four years ago, the first convictions in the al-Qaida terror attack on Oct. 17, 2000.
- Sept. 30 — A string of bombs kills 35 children and wounds scores of others in Baghdad at a government-sponsored celebration to inaugurate a new sewage plant.

## October

- Oct. 1 — U.S. and Iraqi forces launch a major assault to regain control of the insurgent stronghold of Samarra, killing more than 96 insurgents.
- Oct. 4 — U.S. and British forces kill Osama bin Laden and his wife in the 2004 Nobel Prize in physiology, or medicine.



**Jack McAllister salvages items from what was a bathroom in his mobile home in the Windmill Village park in Punta Gorda, Fla., on Aug. 17. A record four hurricanes battered the Sunshine State during a span of six weeks, killing more than 100 people and causing \$442 million in damage.**

- Oct. 5 — Americans David J. Gross, H. David Politzer and Frank Wilczek win the 2004 Nobel Prize in physics.
- Oct. 6 — Israelis Aaron Ginzivman and Avner Hershko, and American Irvin Rose win the 2004 Nobel Prize in chemistry.
- Oct. 9 — Israel's first direct presidential election begins.
- Oct. 10 — A videotape of the beheading of British hostage Kenneth Bigley appears on an Islamic Web site.
- Oct. 11 — Shiite militia fighters start turning in weapons in Baghdad's Sadr City under a deal seen as a key step toward ending weeks of fighting with U.S. and Iraqi forces in the Shiite militant stronghold; the European Union sends at least 34 people on Oct. 7, at least 78 Muslim detainees and/or are crushed to death in southern Thailand after the police round up 1,300 people and pack them into trucks following a riot; Israel gives Yasser Arafat a brief, briefly leaves a compound to reopen the Israeli parliament in the West Bank city of Ramallah.
- Oct. 26 — A video on a militant Islamic Web site says a Japanese man is to be beheaded unless Japan pulls troops from Iraq; the Israeli parliament approves Ariel Sharon's withdrawal plan from Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank.
- Oct. 27 — New York City's subway makes 100th anniversary.
- Oct. 28 — Scientists report in the journal Nature that they have found the skeleton of a new human species in Indonesia; insurgents execute 11 Iraqi soldiers and decapitate on an Islamic militant Web site that Iraqi fighters will avenge "the blood of women and children killed in U.S. strikes on the guerrilla stronghold of Fallujah.
- Oct. 29 — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is flown to Paris for medical treatment, breaking free from nearly three years of Israeli-imposed confinement at his compound in the West Bank town of Ramallah; Osama bin Laden, reading a statement to the American people in a new videotape, directly admits for the first time that he ordered the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.
- Oct. 30 — The decapitated body of a Japanese backpacker is found wrapped in an American flag in northwestern Baghdad. The militant group led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi later claims responsibility.

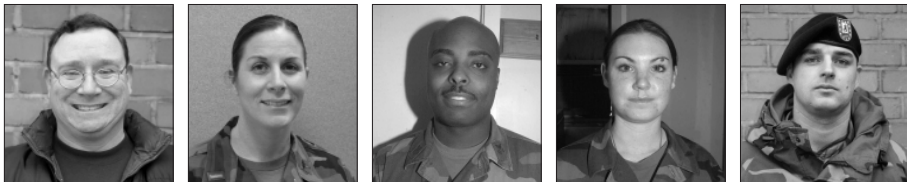
## November

- Nov. 2 — Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh is slain in Amsterdam, Netherlands, after receiving death threats over a movie he made criticizing the treatment of Muslims in Islam.
- Nov. 2 — President Bush wins a second term, defeating Democrat John Kerry. The U.S. presidential election was AP's No. 1 story of the year. In the election, President Bush, John Edwards and the Democratic forces, Kerry seemed to have a strong chance of ousting Bush. But the Massachusetts senator struggled to explain his stance on Iraq, undermined the sting of negative ads and in the end, narrowly lost the pivotal swing state of Ohio after a campaign in which Bush, over and over, insisted he was best qualified to be commander in chief at a time of complex challenges to national security.
- Nov. 3 — Hamid Karzai is officially declared the winner of Afghanistan's first-ever presidential election.
- Nov. 4 — Ivory Coast warplanes bomb the largest city of the rebel-held north, breaking a more than year-old cease-fire in the civil war that split the country.
- Nov. 5 — Russian President Vladimir Putin signs a bill confirming the country's ratification of the Kyoto Protocol.
- Nov. 6 — France forces an overwhelming military force to put down an explosion of anti-French violence in Ivory Coast, its former West African colony.
- Nov. 8 — Thousands of U.S. troops attack the toughest strongholds of Sunni insurgents in Fallujah, Iraq; the U.S. dollar is eliminated from Cuba's economy.
- Nov. 11 — Lithuania becomes the first country in the 25-member European Union to ratify the EU constitution.
- Nov. 11 — Yasser Arafat, revered as the champion of Palestinian statehood and reviled as a terrorist, dies at a French military hospital

- outside Paris. Arafat's death was AP's No. 7 story of the year. For three decades, Arafat was a hero to most of his fellow Palestinians but considered untrustworthy — or worse — by leaders in the West and Israel. His death, at age 75, triggered emotional mourning among Palestinians but also sparked hopes of a breakthrough in efforts to end their long, bloody conflict with Israel.
- Nov. 14 — Iran notifies the U.N. nuclear watchdog in writing that it will suspend uranium enrichment and related activities to dispel suspicions that it is trying to build nuclear arms.
- Nov. 16 — Margaret Hassan, an aid worker kidnapped after decades of helping Israelis, is believed murdered after Al-Jazeera television releases a video of a woman's slaying.
- Nov. 17 — Iraqi authorities set Jan. 30 as the date for the nation's first elections since the collapse of Saddam Hussein's dictatorship.
- Nov. 22 — Three U.N. workers kidnapped in Afghanistan four weeks ago are released unharmed.
- Nov. 23 — Opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko declares himself the winner of Ukraine's disputed presidential election and takes a symbolic oath of office.
- Nov. 24 — Ukraine's election officials declare that the Kremlin-backed prime minister Viktor Yanukovich has won Ukraine's bitterly disputed presidential runoff of balloting. Thousands of opposition supporters demonstrate in Kiev.
- Nov. 27 — After 40 years in North Korea and less than one month in a U.S. military jail near Tokyo, U.S. Army deserter Charles Jenkins becomes a free man; the number of corpses found in and around Mosul, Iraq, reaches 115. Eleven have been identified as members of the Iraqi security forces, who have been targeted by insurgents.
- Nov. 28 — Iraq's most feared terror group claims responsibility for slaughter-then members of the Iraqi security forces in Mosul, where dozens of bodies have been found; just a day before an international deadline, Iraq agrees not to test any centrifuges as part of a total suspension of nuclear activities.

## December

- Dec. 2 — The European Union begins its biggest-ever military operation, formally taking over NATO's peacekeeping mission in Bosnia with 7,000 troops.
- Dec. 3 — Insurgents launch two major attacks against a Shiite mosque and a police station in Baghdad, killing 30 people, including at least 16 police officers; Ukraine's Supreme Court declares the results of the country's disputed presidential runoff election invalid and rules that the runoff should be repeated on Dec. 26; back-to-back storms in the Philippines that began Nov. 29 kill at least 568 people and leave hundreds missing.
- Dec. 7 — Hamas Karzai is sworn in as Afghanistan's first popularly elected president.
- Dec. 8 — U.S. Congress approves the historic overhaul of spy agencies in response to the 9/11 commission's recommendations.
- Dec. 11 — Doctors in Austria determine that Ukrainian presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko was poisoned with dioxin, which caused the severe disfigurement and partial paralysis of his face; Myanmar's ruling military junta announces that more than 5,000 prisoners will be freed from various prisons, the third such release in less than a month.
- Dec. 15 — American telecommunications giants Sprint Corp. and Nextel Communications Inc. announce they will merge in a \$35 billion deal that would create the nation's largest wireless service provider; the U.S. Treasury announces to pay \$120 million to settle U.S. federal securities fraud charges involving the company's America Online unit.
- Dec. 22 — A suicide bomber attacks a crowded mass tent at a U.S. base near Mosul, Iraq, killing 22 people, most Americans.
- Dec. 26 — The world's most powerful earthquake in 40 years rocks northern Indonesia and Sunda Islands, killing more than 100,000 people, Asia and Africa.
- Dec. 27 — Opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko declares victory in Ukraine's fiercely contested presidential election.
- Dec. 28 — The World Health Organization warns that disease in the aftermath of the tsunami catastrophe could kill many people as the deadly waves and earthquake, Susan Sontag, a leading intellectual and activist of the past half century who introduced the concept of "camp" to mainstream culture and influenced the way many people saw the world through her photographs since age 71; actor Jerry Orbach, who played a sardonic, semi-all cop on TV's "Law & Order" and scored on Broadway as a song-and-dance man, dies of prostate cancer at age 69.
- Dec. 29 — The first Indonesian military teams reach the devastated west coast of Sumatra Island, finding thousands of bodies. Sri Lanka says it was possible to prevent the tsunami's outbreaks. Death toll is reported at more than 117,000 and climbing.



PHOTOS BY RICK EMERT AND BEN MURRAY/Stars and Stripes

From left to right top: Master Sgt. James Payton, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 279th Base Support Battalion, Bamberg, Germany; 2nd Lt. Tanya Luckado of the 212th Mobil Army Surgical Hospital, 30th Medical Brigade, currently stationed at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center; Petty Officer 1st Class Brent Robinson; Seaman Apprentice Samantha Byrd; Sgt. Robert Spencer, 109th Transportation Company, Mannheim, Germany; from left to right bottom: Army Spc. Casey Houston, Texas EUCOM Protective Services Detachment; Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Palwasha Newell; Air Force Master Sgt. Kevin Dixon USAF Europe Mission Support Squadron.



# 2004 remembered for personal battles

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

This was the year President Bush won re-election, the Boston Red Sox broke the curse, Republican icon Ronald Reagan died and U.S. forces battled a bloody insurgency in Iraq.

But for troops across Europe, any one of those headline-grabbing events took a distant second to more personal moments.

A difficult deployment, an emotional homecoming, the painful loss of close friends and a miraculous survival of a bomb attack are just some of the events servicemembers remember most from 2004.

Staff Sgt. Adam Hart said he will never forget the day the Humvee he was riding in was rocked by a roadside bomb attack in Iraq. On Dec. 23, the explosion shot a large piece of shrapnel, hitting Hart in the back of the neck, grazing his spine and lodging itself in his throat.

Doctors saved Hart's life, and he now has the shard of triangular metal that nearly killed him. But the architect from Shreveport, La., said, from Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany where he was being treated, that the attack and his extraordinary survival is not nearly as memorable as the bond he formed with the group of soldiers he served beside.

That will stick out forever.

"Those guys have become a second family to me," said Hart, who has since flown to the States while his comrades are still in Iraq.

Soldiers in some military units weren't as lucky as Hart.

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Four, which is based in Port Hueneme, Calif., but has Seabees deployed throughout Europe and Iraq, lost two of its own this year.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Kerrick Adams died unexpectedly in October. The assistant crew leader broke his leg while deployed to Dukati, Albania, working on a school renovation project. He went into cardiac arrest two days after surgery and died. In September, a mortar attack killed Petty Officer 2nd Class Eric Knott, a steelworker with the battalion, while working in Fallujah.

"That was the most shocking thing to us," Petty Officer 2nd Class Palwasha Newell said from Rota, Spain. "These are the people you know and stuff and you're thinking, 'We're all in this, nothing is going to happen to us.'"

But once they died, it was shocking. Still I



can't believe it. Whenever I look at their picture, 'I'm like, no, they're not dead.'"

For many servicemembers and their families, deployments and the war in Iraq dominated their lives in 2004.

Air Force Master Sgt. Kevin Dixon of Buffalo and U.S. Air Forces Europe's European Mission Support Squadron in Stuttgart, Germany, served three months downrange before returning to his family earlier this year.

"It was just stressful not knowing if you were going to wake up," Dixon said. "When I came back it felt good to be back on German soil. I went home to the States the next day and it felt even better to be on U.S. soil."

For Sgt. Robert Spencer, October 2004 marked the end of his deployment to Kuwait.

"It was great to get back to my family and to have my family here with me in Germany," said Spencer, from the 109th Transportation Company in Mannheim. He was delivering mail to Bamberg's Warner Barracks last week.

"It was the high point of the year. Even while I was deployed, it was awesome to get all the letters and videotapes from my family. It was a great year overall, nothing bad happened to me," he said.

Master Sgt. James Payton of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 279th Base Support Battalion in Bamberg, said he was thankful for the people he worked with throughout 2004. However, Payton said the deployment of 1st Infantry Division soldiers from Bamberg put a damper on the year.

"With them being gone, there is an emptiness of brotherhood within the community that is very noticeable," he said.

Some servicemembers marked the year with personal achievement.

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Four surprised Petty Officer 1st Class Brent Robinson in Rota by naming him its combat coordinator, a position responsible for training Seabees in combat and survival skills. He helped the unit revamp its program and rewrote its instructions.

The program proved its worth in November and may have saved lives. After a Marine unit got into a firefight in Iraq, a Navy Seabee with the group used the communications skills he learned in the program to instinctively call in a medical evacuation over the radio.

"It's really a mission-critical position, and I really didn't expect it to come my way and I was hand selected for it," Robinson said. "It was an honor."

For servicemembers like Seaman Apprentice Samantha Byrd joining the military in 2004 was the biggest change in their life and the most memorable moment. Byrd, 20, of Hayward, Calif., worked in retail and was going to college before she decided to join the Navy. In June, she went to boot camp. She's now deployed with the Seabees in Rota.

"A lot of people that I met and the experience I've had are just incredible to me and I



Left: Staff Sgt. Adam Hart, a National Guardsman from the 256th Brigade Combat Team shows the shard of metal removed from his neck last week.

BEN MURRAY  
Stars and Stripes

Right: John and Jessica Arquette and their two children pose in Mannheim, Germany. The family celebrated the end of his yearlong Iraq deployment in February, but he'll be returning this year.

JESSICA INIGO  
Stars and Stripes

still have four more years ahead of me, so I'm really excited to see where that's going to take me," she said.

With 2004 behind them, some servicemembers are looking ahead to next year.

Army Sgt. John Arquette, the operations sergeant with the 51st Transportation Company in Mannheim, Germany, and his family celebrated the end of a yearlong deployment to Iraq in February. But he already is making plans to go back. His unit returns early this year.

"I don't know about other families, but our family only seems to have grown stronger after the deployment," said the soldier during a ceremony on Sullivan Barracks Wednesday to send his unit back. "It gives us something to build on and lets us know that we can do this. It's going to be so much easier the second time around."

His wife, Jennifer, said the upcoming deployment is bringing the family back around full circle with a homecoming at the beginning of the year and a deployment at the end. Now she said she's prepared to be a single mother again and raise their two children while her husband is gone.

"It's not too bad," she said. "Plus, next time it should be much easier. I definitely wouldn't say it's a piece of cake, but it is doable."

Reporters Charlie Coon from Stuttgart, Rick Emert from Bamberg, Jessica Inigo from Darmstadt, and Ben Murray from Darmstadt, all in Germany, contributed to this story.  
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# Action in Iraq attack earns GI a Bronze Star

## Medal ceremony precedes New Year's celebration at Camp Liberty

BY JOSEPH GIORDANO  
Stars and Stripes

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq — For the first time since its deployment to Iraq began in September, a soldier from the 256th Brigade Combat Team has earned the Bronze Star Medal with the Valor device.

Sgt. David L. Bernal, of Company D, 1st Battalion, 101st Cavalry Regiment — attached to 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment — was presented the award at a New Year's Eve ceremony. Along with the medal, Bernal was promoted from corporal to sergeant.

According to the award citation, Bernal's actions on Nov. 10 saved an untold number of soldiers in his platoon. It said that while patrolling in Humvees, the unit came under a coordinated ambush by an unknown number of insurgent fighters.

During the fight, several of the company's vehicles got bogged down.

"In keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect[ing] great credit upon himself," Bernal repeatedly drove his own vehicle back into the ambush to help the disabled vehicles get out of the kill zone, officials said.

Bernal drove back into fire one final time to pick up a number of soldiers fighting on foot.

During the ceremony, 256th BCT commander Brig. Gen. John Basile Jr. also awarded 32 Combat Infantryman Badges and eight Combat Medic Badges. The CIB has become a sore point for many soldiers in Iraq who perform as infantrymen but are not eligible for the award because their primary military specialty is something else.

After the awards ceremony, the bri-

gade's soldiers were treated to a series of New Year's Eve events at various venues on base. A few live bands, lots of food and entertainment were mixed in with non-alcoholic beer, sparkling fruit juice and party favors as the time approached midnight. Some soldiers went to call centers and phoned home; others watched movies in their trailers, enjoying the down time.

But the soldiers got a quick reminder of where they are and the dangers they will face in 2005.

Around 7:30 a.m. Saturday, a single mortar round slammed into an open area in the camp, causing no damage but giving many there a rude awakening.

A few minutes later, a second round came in, rattling windows and trailers but also causing no injuries.

E-mail Joseph Giordano at: giordanoj@patrips.osd.mil



THOMAS BENOFF/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Brig. Gen. John Basile Jr., left, presents the Bronze Star Medal to Sgt. David L. Bernal during a New Year's Eve awards ceremony at Camp Liberty, Iraq.

# Trying to do good frustrating

## Insurgents threaten teacher after soldiers visit Baghdad school

BY JASON CHUDY  
Stars and Stripes

Soldiers of Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment had

a simple mission when they knocked on the gate of a kindergarten in a southern Baghdad neighborhood on Sunday afternoon: distribute stuffed animals and school supplies to the kids and give the faculty a new space heater.

But the seemingly simple, good deed led to frustration on the soldiers' parts and fear for one Iraqi woman. As they knocked on the metal gate in front of the school, the young, nicely dressed woman repeatedly told the unit's interpreter that she didn't want the soldiers to come here before."

Said Staff Sgt. Bryce Rigby, the patrol sergeant. "The woman at the front gate had always let us in."

Though visibly distressed by the soldiers' presence, she grudgingly relented, and the young children's faces beamed as the loot was passed out.

The patrol left after about 30 minutes, moving on to visit and search an adjacent house. The rest of the afternoon patrol went without incident.

But when the patrol returned to the area for an evening patrol, it received distressing news.

The woman's fears about the visit were not unfounded. She had been followed home and threatened by insurgents.

"Without a doubt it was someone in the neighborhood," Rigby said. "They obviously had some one talk to them."

The soldiers returned to the neighborhood that evening, frustrated at the results of their good deed.

"It makes you angry to do something good ... and the insurgents come in behind us and threaten them," said Sgt. Michael Wilbanks. "It makes you dislike the insurgents even more."

Platoon soldiers banged on the metal gates of nearby homes and tried to find out how the insurgents — mujahadeen to the locals — learned of their visit.



JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Bryce Rigby questions four residents about threats made to a kindergarten teacher last week in a southern Baghdad neighborhood. With him is one of the unit's Iraqi interpreters, who wears a mask to hide his identity.

"[The soldiers] were ready to go through every house in the sector if need be," Rigby said. "We felt bad that the lady was harassed and we wanted to find out who was harassing her."

The soldiers questioned the residents about the incident and told them they wanted their help in protecting the school's students and staff.

A handful of residents said they didn't know of the Americans' visit, while others admitted seeing the patrol earlier in the day. None of the residents, about

a half-dozen people of varying ages in each house visited, admitted knowing who the insurgents were.

"There's nice people out there," said Wilbanks, "and they get threatened because they took toys from us."

But the soldiers didn't have time to dwell on the incident.

"We don't talk about it much unless they get killed," said Wilbanks. "We've had some Iraqis working close with us killed. We just move on."

E-mail Jason Chudy at: chudyj@patrips.osd.mil

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# 256th Brigade Combat Team GI dies in Iraq

BY JOSEPH GIORDANO  
Stars and Stripes

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq — A 256th Brigade Combat Team soldier has died from injuries sustained in a roadside bomb attack that occurred last month in Iraq, military officials confirmed Saturday.

Spc. Craig Nelson, 21, of Shreveport, La., died Dec. 29 during surgery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., officials said. According to Louisiana National Guard officials, Nelson had been paralyzed from the neck down since the Dec. 16 attack outside of Baghdad.

Nelson was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 156th Armor Regiment of the 256th Brigade Combat Team.

Nelson's death is the second in just over a week for the unit. Second Lt. Christopher W. Barnett, a

32-year-old from Denham Springs, La., was killed by a roadside bomb Dec. 23 and was buried Friday in his hometown. Both soldiers were given posthumous promotions, officials said.

According to an Associated Press report from Louisiana, Nelson's parents had flown from his hometown to Walter Reed to be with the soldier. Funeral details were still pending, family members said.

The 256th Brigade Combat Team deployed to Kuwait in early October and has been responsible for an area of operations north and west of Baghdad, including the area around the Baghdad International Airport.

E-mail Joseph Giordano at: giordanoj@patrips.osd.mil



Nelson

# Alawi warns neighbors to halt insurgents

**Iraq's patience running out, he tells Syria, Iran**

BY BASSEM MROUE

The Associated Press

**BAGHDAD** — At least three roadside bombs targeted Iraqi security troops Saturday, a day after Prime Minister Ayad Allawi warned Iraq's neighbors to crack down on insurgents infiltrating from their territory, saying that Iraq's patience was wearing thin.

Al-Qaida, meanwhile, claimed responsibility for a bold attack on U.S. troops.

Iraqi officials have repeatedly accused Syria and Iran of supporting the insurgents waging a campaign of violence against coalition forces and Allawi's U.S.-backed government. Both countries have denied helping militants or allowing them to cross their borders into Iraq.

But Allawi's comments Friday to Baghdad's Al-Iraqiya television were among his toughest yet. "Some countries are hosting people who are involved in harming the Iraqi people," he said, without naming any nations. "Harming Iraq and its people is not allowed."

He said his government had contacted the countries and was waiting for their reply. "According to the answers we will decide what the next step will be," he said.

"Iraq is not a weak country. Iraq is passing through a difficult period but Iraq can respond in a



**Ayad Alawi, interim prime minister, Iraq, speaks at a news conference in Baghdad. Allawi delivered an unusually strong warning to neighboring countries to crack down on insurgents infiltrating from their territory.**

strong way if needed," he said. "Patience has limits and it is beginning to run out."

In new violence, a U.S. Marine assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force was killed in action Friday during security operations in the Al Anbar Province, the Marines said in a statement, which did not provide any other details.

A roadside bomb explosion struck an Iraqi National Guard patrol south of Mahmudiya, a town about 25 miles south of Baghdad. It left one guard dead and six wounded, an ING officer said Saturday.

Another bomb went off while a U.S. military convoy was driving through southern Baghdad's Dora district on Saturday, witnesses said. The blast damaged

nearby shops, but apparently caused no casualties.

In the town of Yousifiya, just south of Baghdad, another bomb exploded early Saturday, wounding two guardsmen who were on patrol, police said.

In Baghdad's western neighborhood of Adl, police found two beheaded bodies on a main street Saturday, witnesses said. Police said they couldn't identify the victims.

Iraqi forces on Friday discovered and cleared four improvised explosive devices and five weapons caches and detained 122 suspected insurgents, the U.S. military said Saturday. The sweep appeared to be the latest in a series of anti-insurgency operations in the so-called Sunni Triangle in central Iraq.

Al-Qaida in Iraq, led by the country's most wanted terrorist, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, claimed responsibility for a well-coordinated attack Wednesday on a U.S. post in the northern city of Mosul. The U.S. military said one American soldier and 25 insurgents were killed in the battle.

The militants, however, claimed they had suffered no casualties.

"We, al-Qaida in Iraq, claim responsibility for the battles of Mosul, may God cleanse it from the impurities of the infidels," said a statement posted on a Web site that often carries militant claims.

Wednesday's attack began with a massive truck bomb exploding just outside a U.S. checkpoint, followed by attacks by squads of 10-12 insurgents.

A Stryker vehicle reinforcing the Americans was hit by a roadside bomb and a second car

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, at least 1,328 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

At least 1,042 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians. The department did not provide an update Friday.

The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 16; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when Pres-

ident Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,190 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count.

That includes at least 933 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers as of Thursday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the Defense Department:

■ Army Pfc. Oscar Sanchez, 19, Modesto, Calif.; died Wednesday in Mosul, Iraq, when an explosive struck his observation post; assigned to 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team), Fort Lewis, Wash.

bomb. U.S. forces then called in airstrikes by F-18 and F-16 fighters, which launched three Maverick missiles and conducted several strafing runs.

In violence Friday, a car bomb exploded next to a taxi carrying Iraqi national guardsmen in the town of Beji, 135 miles north of Baghdad. A passenger car, which happened to be passing by at that moment, absorbed the brunt of the blast, killing its two occupants while five guardsmen were wounded, said Maj. Neil O'Brien.

In Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad, U.S. troops came under mortar attack Friday. They opened fire, killing an Iraqi and wounding two, local hospital sources said.

North of Fallujah, a body of an Iraqi national guardsman was found with a handwritten note pinned to it saying: "This is the fate of anyone who collaborates with the occupation forces."

Allawi, who earlier this month accused Syria of harboring opponents from the ousted Saddam Hussein's regime, described a spate of guerrilla attacks in December that killed hundreds of people — mainly members of the security forces — as "a catastrophe." Defense Minister Hazem Shalan accused Iran and Syria of supporting "terrorism in Iraq."

Insurgents have intensified their strikes in a campaign to disrupt the Jan. 30 general elections for a constitutional assembly that will set up the next government and write a new constitution.

## Afghans arrest suspect in August car bombing

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM

The Associated Press

**KABUL, Afghanistan** — Security forces have arrested the suspected organizer of the deadly car bombing of a U.S. security firm in the Afghan capital and believe he was acting on the orders of al-Qaida, an Afghan official said Saturday.

The man, a Tajik national called Mohammed Haidar, confessed his leading role in the Aug. 29 car-bomb attack, which killed about 10 people, including three Americans, Afghan state television reported.

A spokesman for the Afghan intelligence service, Mohammed Nader, said the report was accurate but declined to discuss the details.

Haidar also admitted organizing a suicide attack on a Kabul shopping street on Oct. 23, which killed an American woman and an Afghan child, the TV report said. The attack was allegedly carried out by a Kashmiri militant.

American military officials say al-Qaida cells could still be operating in several Afghan cities, three years after U.S. forces entered Afghanistan to pursue members of Osama bin Laden's organization in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

U.S. and Afghan forces killed nine people and detained at least 18 others in a monthlong sweep against al-Qaida suspects late last year, and one American general has suggested the Kabul car bomb was the work of a militant group with links to the radical Islamic network. It was unclear when Haidar, a bearded man of 30 shown briefly during the evening news, was detained.

The report said Haidar told investigators that he had traveled to the Pakistani city of Peshawar to meet an alleged al-Qaida member called Attaullah who gave him the instructions to carry out the attacks.

Attaullah supposedly paid Haidar \$7,000 to buy a car and explosives, the report said.

## Frosty the Patrolman



**BRADLEY RHEN** (Courtesy of the U.S. Army)

**Soldiers from Battery B, 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment put the finishing touches on a snowman on Wednesday at Forward Operating Base Orgun-E, Afghanistan, after a foot of snow fell on the base during the previous 36 hours.**



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# Pink rockers help ring in new year in Iraq

BY NICK WADHAM

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Two years ago, Saddam Hussein could not have imagined in his wildest nightmares that on New Year's Eve 2004 he would be sitting in a jail cell and a punk band known for albums titled "Hitler Bad, Vandals Good" and "Look What I Almost Stepped In!" would be playing in the heart of his former empire.

But so it was that the Army's 1st Cavalry Division, 3rd Brigade, got a one-hour show by Southern California punk peripherals The Vandals, who delighted a small mosh pit in the Green Zone with favorites including "Oi to the World!" and "Anarchy Burger," the ditty that earned them brief worldwide fame (and \$22,000) when it was quoted in the 2002 Vin Diesel movie "XXX."

The show was one of the few entertainments provided for U.S. troops in Iraq on New Year's Eve, a day marked chiefly by a relative lull in violence. There were no fireworks, though a few officers on bases were still spruced up with holiday decorations. At the same time, the Iraqis of the street and Baghdad echoed mostly with the sound of helicopters running frequent patrols over downtown.

"It's pretty cool to be asked to come out and go right in the middle of it — it's like we stepped inside our television," Vandals bassist Joe Escalante, wearing the flak jacket he borrowed from the Army for the tour, said while the soldiers sat in the dusty, darkened theater staring in bemusement as The Vandals played their extremely loud set, a handful of die-hards reverted to their happier American ways and jostled each other in true slam style in the impromptu mosh pit.

*"It's pretty cool to be asked to come out and go right in the middle of it — it's like we stepped inside our television."*

Joe Escalante

Vandals bassist

"This is straight up one of the few times I get to go out and beat people up, but it's a friendly atmosphere so we were not getting beat up too bad," said Pfc. Russell Holt, 20, a medic from Tampa, Florida. "These guys are up there with Superchuck."

The Vandals, who gained popularity in the 1980s, played a sharp sense of humor with their punk riffs, mixed it up with a few three-chord ditties, sped versions of Queen's "Don't Stop Me Now" and "Summer Nights" from the musical Grease, and the theme song of "Team

America: World Police." "America, (Expletive) Yeah!"

The set earned the praise of Matthew Linus Byars, a 31-year-old medic from Nashville, Tenn., and self-proclaimed punk rocker for 18 years. He stomped through the mosh pit and stood before lead Vandals singer Dave Quackenbush, bobbing his head in rapture.

"There aren't many real punk rockers in the Army," Byars said.

"I just kind of blew off Christmas as another day of work but this was really special to me," he said. "It was one of those if I'm on duty I'll trade anybody to be here this afternoon."

The Vandals are on a two-week tour in which they've played eight shows at several bases and will go to Kuwait on Saturday for one more show before heading back to the States.

Celebrity visitors for every taste have touched foot in Iraq since the war began. Troops have chuckled to Robin Williams

and Rob Schneider. Pro wrestler Diamond Dallas Page taught soldiers a few moves, while pro fisherman Ray Scott, affectionately known as the "Bass Boss," has cast lines into the Tigris River.

The Vandals added to the list they don't have the drawing power of such Iraq visitors as Toby Keith, Cincinnati baseball legend Rob Dibble or the Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders. But they said they were pleased with the crowd as they got from an entertainment-starked military.

"You rock out to the band you have, not the band you wish you had," guitarist Warren Fitzgerald said, ridding off of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's comments to troops in Kuwait who had complained the Army isn't getting enough armor.

Otherwise, there were few major events planned for New Year's Eve. Chow halls served a special menu and troops were allowed nonalcoholic beer at a few bases. But there were no big-ticket visitors as there were. Said spokesman Joe Killo, 22, a military policeman from Columbia, Md.

"It's pretty cool to be asked to come out and go right in the middle of it — it's like we stepped inside our television."

"Iraqis don't celebrate our holidays, so we can't put the war on holiday."

## Iraqis accustomed to sounds of coalition forces

BY RAWYA RAGEH

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — It's the time of the year for the music world's Top 10 lists. Iraqis who wake and fall asleep to explosions and gunfire have something else to offer: The Top 10 distinctive sounds heard in Baghdad's daily life.

What Iraqis say they "listen" to.

1. The roar of power generators. "Oh! They are our best friends, those generators," said Mahasen Chalabi, a 40-year-old accountant. "We've been living in war since 1980 and generators have been the one useful thing — we lose power in both summer and winter and without the coolers and heaters, God knows how it'll be."

2. Gunfire. "We hear no birds, we hear bullets. It's the most disturbing sound," said George Nichola, a 23-year-old literature student. "I automatically start seeing scary images in my mind," he added. "It's like being in the Wild West."

3. Construction. "I actually don't mind it. It reflects our determination against terrorists — they bring down one house, we build another," said Mohammed Badi, a 34-year-old marketing executive. "But I mind it when it's something built by foreign troops — we don't want them to build stuff and stay."

4. Police and ambulance sirens. "Our life now has become all about sirens," said Ammar Mansour, a 27-year-old businessman.

"Before, we used to shriek at the sound of sirens, but now complacency rules."

5. Loudspeaker warnings by coalition patrols: "You'll be driving and they'll yell at you 'Stop! Let the patrol pass first,' and one can't help wonder: how rude," said Mohammed Ahmed, a computer science engineer.

6. The rattle of tanks and Humvees. "Don't they say the war is over? Why then the tanks and those scary vehicles?" said Mohammed Hashem, 21. "I can understand these vehicles patrolling the major highways, but why the narrow residential streets? And they have this habit of not coming alone, there has to be a whole loud bunch."

7. The clatter of helicopters. "It's so provocative, those army helicopters flying all the time above us," said Khadija Adnan, a 40-year-old former civil servant. "What's even more annoying is that they fly at such low altitude, and the kids get really scared," she added.

8. Sirens in the Green Zone, the fortified home of the U.S. Embassy and headquarters of the interim U.S. said Khadija Adnan, a 40-year-old former civil servant. "What's even more annoying is that they fly at such low altitude, and the kids get really scared," she added.



**A U.S. Marine points his rifle, looking for potential threats, while the background Iraqi children holding soccer balls given to them by the Marines hold out their hands as a Marine gives them sweets, during a patrol, in Ramadi, Iraq. Iraqis have become accustomed to the sights and sounds of coalition forces.**

frequently attacked anyway and the siren goes off after the attack takes place, so what's the point?"

2. Explosions. "It's the sound that has come to accentuate our misery," Duhia Mohamad, a doctor's assistant, said of car bombs that hit Baghdad almost every day. "Day after day, these booms terrorize us. It's one redundant sound

the people have become sick and tired of. It hurts us to see our city destroyed by these criminals."

1. Silence. "Believe it or not, what petrifies me most is when it is so quiet. I feel like it's the silence that precedes a storm," said Chaki Shukri, 41. "Normalcy for us is the noise of helicopters, gunfire, explosions and sirens."

### Detainees released

BAGHDAD — The U.S. military said it released 260 detainees on Saturday after a security review determined they no longer posed a threat.

The review board of six Iraqi officials and three senior coalition officers made the decision to releasing the men, said spokesman Lt. Col. Barry Johnson.

More than 9,000 detainees were freed in 2004, with about 1,000 releases occurring in December.

### Terror attacks in Iraq

BAGHDAD — Terror boss Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's group claimed responsibility for a number of attacks targeting security forces around Iraq earlier this week.

In one of the bloodiest days in recent months, militants killed some 20 policemen on Tuesday in attacks in various Iraqi provinces.

The group also claimed responsibility for an attack on American post in Samarra the same day.

### Iraqi coins reintroduced

BAGHDAD — Iraq will reintroduce coins into circulation for the first time since Saddam Hussein's regime abolished them in the aftermath of the 1990 Gulf War, a spokesman said Saturday.

Starting next week, Iraqis will be able to use coins of 25, 50 and 100 dinars, Central Bank spokesman Zuheir Ali Akbar said.

Coins were scrapped in 1991, when the international embargo sent Iraq's annual inflation rate soaring upward of 1,000 percent.

### Lawyer: Iraqi scientist has cancer

BAGHDAD — An Iraqi lawyer said Friday that one of Saddam Hussein's former top scientists, known as "Mr. Anthrax," has cancer and is dying in U.S. custody where she has been held for more than a year.

A U.S. military spokesman for detainee op-

erations in Iraq refused to comment on the report that Huda Salih Mahdi Ammassah has cancer.

Other U.S. officials said they were aware Ammassah had been treated previously for cancer and she is routinely checked to ensure there is no recurrence. They said there was no immediate concern for her health.

Ammassah, a top Baath party official and biotech researcher who got her nickname for her alleged role in trying to develop bio-weapons for Saddam, is one of two women incarcerated by the U.S. military at an undisclosed location along with other top members of Saddam's regime.

From The Associated Press

From The Associated Press

## IN THE WORLD

## U.S. military relief operation gears up in Southeast Asia

BY ERIC TALMADGE  
The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — One of the biggest U.S. military disaster relief missions in history kicked into high gear Saturday as an aircraft carrier battle group arrived off the shores of tsunami-battered Sumatra and began launching helicopters laden with supplies.

A flotilla carrying about 200 Marines and water purifying equipment was expected to arrive in Sri Lanka on Monday, meanwhile, a former staging base for B-52 bombers in Thailand roared with the takeoffs and landings of giant cargo planes.

At least nine Seahawk helicopters from the USS Abraham Lincoln began flying badly needed relief missions, supplying material for temporary shelters into villages along Sumatra's devastated northwest coast.

As many as 100,000 people are feared dead on Sumatra, which was closest to the epicenter of the catastrophic Dec. 26 quake and tsunami. Although aid has been piling up in regional airports, officials have had trouble getting it out to the areas in need and the U.S. military was expected to ease the bottleneck.

"The issue really is how do we get help most effectively to those who need it," said U.S. Ambassador B. Lynn Pascoe.

Pascoe said although relations between Washington and Jakarta

have been strained in the past over human rights concerns, the two governments were working closely on the relief mission. He sidestepped a question on whether the aid was aimed at improving U.S. standing in the world's most populous Muslim nation.

The mission is one of the largest the United States has launched in Asia since the Vietnam War. More than 20 vessels with thousands of sailors and Marines are being dispatched, along with some 1,000 land-based

troops. The USS Bonhomme Richard, an amphibious assault vessel carrying Marines, and the Lincoln battle group were to lead the operations from the seas.

Thailand's Vietnam War-era air base of Utaapao has become the airlift hub for the region. Nine C-130 transport craft took off Friday to rush medical and other supplies to the stricken resorts of southern Thailand and the

more distant airfields in Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

Singapore, Australia, New Zealand and Japan are among the core of nations contributing ships or planes and helping plan relief operations. The U.S. military contribution is by far the largest.

The Lincoln group alone has about 6,500 sailors and Marines. The Bonhomme Richard has a crew of 1,000 and can carry an additional 2,000 Marines, and is capable of putting them ashore quickly on huge landing vessels launched from its hull.

Another 1,300 U.S. Marines will be ready for deployment at a naval base in the Indian Ocean if they are needed, U.S. Ambassador Jeffrey Linstead told a news conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka.



A Tibetan Buddhist girl prays Saturday as Christian nuns look on during a prayer service to express sympathy for tsunami victims in Bangalore, India.

# Rain, aftershocks add to Asia's mounting misery

Global donations near \$1 billion; death toll at least 123,000

The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — Pounding rain drenched the wrecked city of Banda Aceh and aftershocks shook the area Saturday, adding to the problems of homeless earthquake and tsunami survivors and heightening fears of waterborne diseases. Flash floods in Sri Lanka forced evacuations and thwarted aid deliveries.

Worldwide donations to aid those battered by the huge waves that slammed Asian and African nations approached \$1 billion, and a steady stream of foreign military aircraft touched down in the epicenter of the disaster, the Aceh province on the northern tip of Indonesia's Sumatra island.

Nine U.S. helicopters dropped off supplies at decimated coastal cities — trying to circumvent the bottlenecks that have seen thousands of boxes of food, medicines, water, tents and blankets stacking up at warehouses with not enough hands to get them to survivors. Of-

ficials said they were trying to ramp up distribution as fast as possible.

"The scale of the disaster is just too big," said Andi Mallareng, spokesman for Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. "We can bring in the aid, but we need manpower to distribute them."

Six days after the earthquake and tsunamis, the confirmed death toll passed 123,000. U.N. humanitarian chief Jan Egeland estimated the number of dead was approaching 150,000.

Japan increased its pledge of aid from \$30 million to \$500 million, the largest single nation donation yet. A day earlier, the United States raised its promise of help tenfold to \$350 million.

Britain has pledged \$95 million, Sweden \$75 million and Spain \$68 million.

Flash floods in eastern Sri Lanka on Saturday forced the evacuation of 2,000 people from

low-lying areas already affected by the tsunami, officials said.

Police officer Neville Wijesinghe said several roads leading to the eastern town of Ampara, one of the worst hit by the tsunami, were blocked by floodwaters, preventing aid trucks from getting through for several hours.

Aftershocks rattled the region, including a 6.5-magnitude quake 215 miles west of Banda Aceh on Saturday, the U.S. Geological Survey said. Smaller aftershocks hit northern Sumatra and the Nicobar and Andaman islands, a remote Indian archipelago just north of Sumatra. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said the aftershocks were too small to trigger tsunamis.

Saturday's rainstorm in Banda Aceh was the first since last Sunday's disaster. Health workers have warned that heavy rain could spread diseases like cholera and diarrhea. Thousands of uncollected corpses remain in and around the city.

At one refugee camp on the grounds of the airport, hundreds of people spent a damp night under plastic sheets. Mothers nursed babies while others tried to light a fire with damp matches.

"With no help we will die," said Indra Saputra. "We came here because we heard that we could get food, but it was nonsense. All I got was some pockets of noodles."

In the northern Aceh town of Bireun, officials warned that as many as 18,000 refugees were threatened with disease and starvation unless aid arrived soon.

"The government has been too slow in handling distribution of aid," said Riswan Ali, a refugee acting as a coordinator in Bireun. "We need water. Our children are sick. They need food and medicine, please help us."

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# Vigils and prayers usher in New Year

BY JOHN LEICESTER  
The Associated Press

PARIS — Prayers and candlelight vigils were substituted for parties across Asia, while Paris draped black cloths along the Champs-Élysées. Revelers in New York's Times Square marked a moment of silence as the world brought in the New Year mourning the victims of a devastating tsunami.

From Europe to Africa, the joy celebrating the leap into 2005 was clouded by the sheer scope of last weekend's earthquake and tsunami tragedy, which killed more than 123,000 people in Asia and Africa and left millions of others homeless.

"Never has the step into a new year felt heavier," said Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson, who urged Swedes to light candles in their windows as a vigil. "We should have celebrated with fireworks and festivities. Now that feels completely wrong."

In tsunami-battered Thailand, hundreds of mourners — many clutching white roses and candles — gathered in the resort of Phuket to remember lost loved ones and friends.

Paul Foley, a native of Essex, England, who lives in Chalong, Thailand, said a few people around the world would "spend a few moments... thinking kind of differently."

In Europe, thousands were struggling with the loss of loved ones and friends. The confirmed death tolls for many European countries were in the double digits, but officials warned the final tallies would be in the hun-



Thais and foreigners put candles on a long tray during a candlelight vigil for tsunami victims in Phuket province, Thailand, on Friday night. Around the world, many New Year's Eve revelers paused their celebrations to mourn the victims of last week's tsunami in Asia and Africa.

dreds or even thousands. For Sweden alone, 2,500 tourists were still missing, while Switzerland was waiting to hear from some 700 and the French reported at least 118 disappeared.

Outgoing Secretary of State Colin Powell, a native New Yorker, pressed a giant button with Mayor Michael Bloomberg in Times Square, setting the famed crystal-covered ball slowly moving down to count the seconds until the new year.

At 8:15 p.m., the crowd quieted to mark a moment of silence to honor those killed in the earthquake and tsunami.

"I think we all have to look in the mirror tonight before we go to bed and recognize just how lucky we are and that not everyone else is so lucky," Bloomberg said.

Many of the estimated 1 million revelers around the glittering, firework-illuminated harbor in Sydney, Australia, also marked a moment of silence for victims.

"You could tell people were a little more reverent tonight; it was kept in people's thoughts," British tourist Mark Stiles said.

Stores in major German cities reported a de-

cline in sales of fireworks following appeals from Chancellor Gerhard Schröder and others for the money usually spent on pyrotechnics to be donated to relief agencies.

In Paris, 480 scarf-like strips of black cloth hung along the Champs-Élysées and on light posts at the nearby Place de la Concorde — a deliberately discreet but poignant gesture to victims.

"This night cannot be ordinary because of this mourning affecting the entire planet," Deputy Mayor Anne Hidalgo said.

Many Asians were too busy counting the dead, feeding survivors and combating disease to even think about partying.

Fireworks and celebrations were canceled throughout Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, the Islamic sultanate of Brunei and much of India as government agencies urged people to attend religious services instead.

"Let's welcome the new year without a party because our hearts are filled with concern and sadness," Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said. "Let's pray together and hopefully God will not give us another disaster."

## Japan pledges aid

TOKYO — Japan pledged up to \$500 million in grant aid for tsunami disaster relief on Saturday. Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi announced, making the country the largest single donor to victims of the catastrophe.

Koizumi said Japan — which had previously pledged more than \$30 million to the relief effort — would extend the aid to affected countries and international organizations.

The promise pushed the world aid pledge to the disaster zone well over \$1 billion.

It also put Asia's biggest and wealthiest economy at the top of the global donor effort to help countries recover from the tsunami disaster.

## Pope praises relief

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II celebrated a special Mass early Saturday in his private chapel for the victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami and later publicly praised the outpouring of aid for the stricken populations as a sign of hope for 2005.

"Once more I express my nearness to the populations struck by the tragic cataclysm of these past days," John Paul said in a New Year's Day greeting from his studio window overlooking St. Peter's Square at the Vatican.

"In assuring my prayer for the victims of the catastrophe and for their families, I note favorably the solidarity efforts which are developing in every part of the world," the pontiff said, sitting in a chair in front of a window as thousands of people listened below in the square.

John Paul has made several trips to encourage international relief efforts for victims of the earthquake-triggered tsunami that swamped coastlines in Asia and Africa.

## Brewery helps victims

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — Sri Lanka's top brewery normally produces 160,000 bottles of beer a day. Now the plant has turned its technical know-how to producing a very different beverage: potable water for the survivors of the Asian tsunami disaster.

But the Lion Brewery had a problem to start with, because the color and labeling of the bottles made the water look like beer, said Nufar Rahim, a senior company executive.

"So we then made an urgent request to get white glass bottles and they are now coming," she said.

After hearing reports that survivors of last Sunday's disaster ran the risk of drinking contaminated water, the company quickly summoned workers and all executives to the bottling plant.

The whole plant had to be cleaned and the beer remaining in the system had to be purged.

"We needed every hand because the packing of the water bottles had to be done manually," said Rahim.

"Even our managers got into the act and helped the staff to manually store the bottles in packages," Rahim said.

From The Associated Press

# Tsunami victims struggling on remote islands

## Indian chain is off-limits to aid groups

BY NEELESH MISRA  
The Associated Press

PORT BLAIR, India — Six aftershocks jolted a remote southern Indian archipelago where villagers were fighting Saturday to survive without water or food after Asia's devastating tsunami, officials said.

The 5.2-5.9 magnitude tremors on Friday night and early Saturday came as authorities tried to reach the survivors who are desperate for humanitarian aid.

India has so far denied international aid groups access to enter most of the island territory of Andaman and Nicobar, the last tsunami blind spot where casualties are not known but feared to be in the thousands.

"There is nothing to eat there. There is no water. In a couple of days, people will start dying of



A girl eats from her mother's hands Friday at a relief camp for residents of the Andaman and Nicobar islands in Port Blair, India.

hunger," said Anup Ghatak, a utilities contractor from Campbell Bay island who was being evacuated to Port Blair, the capital of the territory.

An island official said Friday that 712 bodies had been buried or cremated there, and at least 3,754 people were missing.

Homeless and stunned, victims

of Sunday's disaster poured into eight relief camps in Port Blair with harrowing tales of death and destruction. Walking long distances through dense forests to get to the nearest airport, they were grateful they had survived but eager to learn if their friends and families were safe.

Indian authorities have tradi-

tionally barred foreigners from most of the islands — partly for security reasons because of an Indian air force base in Car Nicobar and also to protect a dwindling group of indigenous people. Even Indians need special permits to travel there.

A few international relief agencies have begun working in Port Blair but are unable to go deeper into the archipelago's 500 islands.

Relief operations on the remote archipelago have been limited to Indian officials and local volunteers who have struggled to deliver tons of rations, clothes, bed sheets, oil, and other items, hampered by lack of transportation to the remote islands.

"We would like to be invited to join the relief effort, and to be part of any helicopter or boat trip to the area," said an official with Doctors Without Borders.

International humanitarian group Oxfam also requested entry. But Lt. Gov. Ram Kapse, administrator of the federally governed territory, said no decision had been made. He said four Indian volunteer groups have been allowed to travel to the islands.



# Fire kills 175 in Argentina nightclub

## More than 700 injured; mayor says locked exit doors likely kept many from escaping

BY KEVIN GRAY  
The Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — Authorities were searching Saturday for the business partners of a Buenos Aires nightclub owner after a fire that killed 175 people and injured hundreds after survivors said the building's emergency exits were locked.

Club owner Omar Chaban was detained Friday and was expected to face questioning by a federal judge in the coming days about the disaster, which happened late Thursday.

Meanwhile, families and city officials continued to work to identify victims and the injured. For a second straight day, workers posted lists of people being treated on walls outside the city's hospitals, where families gathered for news of their loved ones.

Investigators said they believed one of Argentina's worst disasters began when a flare was

fired during a rock concert, igniting the room ceiling of a club crowded mostly with teenagers.

Another 714 people were injured in the blaze, which set off a stampede for the exits as the concert hall filled with thick, black smoke. At least 102 people were reported to be in critical condition, said Julio Salinas, an official with the Buenos Aires emergency services department.

The fire tore through the Cromagnon Republic nightclub, where the Argentine rock band Los Callejeros was playing to a crowd of 4,000 people. News reports said the nightclub had a capacity of 1,500 people.

Witnesses described chaotic scenes of people rushing for the doors amid burning debris, their vision blurred by thick smoke that also blocked out emergency lighting. Other witnesses told of people struggling to force open the doors.

A 22-year-old survivor who gave his name only as Andres said surging crowds pushed their way toward several of the club's six doors but found some of them wouldn't open.

"Once the fire erupted, everyone ran for the doors, but there was only one very narrow one open at the exit closest to us. Another wider door next to it was locked," he said.

Buenos Aires Mayor Anibal Ibarra said four of the building's doors — including two emergency exits — were either tied shut with wire or locked with padlocks in an apparent attempt to prevent people from entering without paying.

"Had they been open, we surely would have avoided a lot of deaths," he said, calling the locked doors an "irresponsible act."

"It seems they were condemned to a terrible trap," said Interior Minister Anibal Fernandez.



Grieving family members react after finding their loved ones in the morgue of a local hospital. A fire swept through a crowded nightclub during a rock concert Friday in Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing 175 people and leaving more than 600 injured.

## Abbas welcomed enthusiastically by Rafah gunmen

BY IBRAHIM BARZAK  
The Associated Press

RAFAH REFUGEE CAMP, Gaza Strip — Dozens of gunmen gave a warm welcome to interim Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas on Saturday, hoisting him on their shoulders and pledging loyalty to his campaign for the Palestinian presidency.

The gunmen were among tens of thousands of people to greet Abbas in Rafah, a teeming camp in southern Gaza that has seen some of the heaviest fighting during the past four years of Israeli-Palestinian violence.

The camp was decorated with large posters of Abbas, and the crowd was in such a frenzy that Abbas was forced to leave an indoor campaign rally through the window of the building.

"Rafah suffers from oppression and occupation, but it will not be defeated and humiliated and will not back down except after victory and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital," Abbas told the cheering crowd.

Abbas, the front-runner in the Jan. 9 presidential election, has been courted armed groups in recent days, even though he has spoken out against violence and called for a negotiated settlement with Israel. The campaigning has prompted questions about whether Abbas is playing campaign politics or identifying with violent groups.

Abbas, who lives in the West Bank, traveled to Gaza this week to mark the 40th anniversary of the ruling Fatah movement. On Jan. 1, 1965, Fatah carried out its first attack on an Israeli target — an explosion at a water tower in which one Fatah member was killed and a second arrested.

Abbas' convoy was stopped by the group of gunmen as it entered Rafah on Saturday. Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, got out of his car and made his way through the ecstatic crowd.

The gunmen, members of the Al Qas Martyrs' Brigades, a violent group with ties to Abbas' ruling Fatah party, placed an Arab headress on his shoulder



Interim Palestinian leader and presidential front-runner Mahmoud Abbas, center, waves to supporters as he steps from his motorcade Saturday during a visit to the Rafah refugee camp, southern Gaza Strip.

and chanting "with our blood and souls, we will redeem you Abu Mazen." The gunmen hoisted Abbas on their shoulders and carried him through the crowd before he headed into a nearby hall to deliver his speech.

At the rally, Abbas praised the residents of Rafah. Israeli troops frequently operate in the area, trying to halt weapons smugglers who work along the Egyptian border.

"The killing and assassinations and the bulldozing did not prevent us from visiting Rafah ... the steadfast Rafah," Abbas said.

Abbas repeatedly praised longtime Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who died on Nov. 11. Both men were among the founders of the Fatah movement.

"Today we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the revolution begun by Abu Ammar," he said, referring to Arafat. "We will continue until a Palestinian boy and girl place a Palestinian flag over the walls and minarets of Jerusalem," he said.

## Holiday revelry leaves 11 dead in Philippines

The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — At least 11 people were killed and nearly 600 injured as Filipinos welcomed 2005 with daredevil revelry, but there were fewer firecracker blasts and less celebratory gunfire than in the past, officials said Saturday.

More people converged Friday night to watch official fireworks displays organized in three areas of Manila's tourist and financial districts to discourage rowdier celebrations. And there was less sparkle and gray smoke from exploding firecrackers in the capital's sky.

But those who lit powerful firecrackers and defied a ban on the celebratory firing of guns were as

careless as in the past, despite a government campaign against dangerous celebrations that have often made the city's alleys resemble smoke-shrouded war zones on New Year's Eve.

"We sympathize with the victims, but we hope more and more people will be more cautious," police spokesman Senior Spvt. Leopoldo Bataoil said. "Let's not learn it through the hard way. There is no need to lose a hand to learn one's lesson."

Of the 11 deaths monitored by police in the two weeks that ended Saturday, seven were caused by a firecracker-ignited fire, three by stray bullets and one by a firecracker blast. Bataoil said. He said 547 people were injured by firecrackers and 30 by stray bullets.

## Handicapped Polish teen reaches pole-to-pole goal

The Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — A handicapped Polish teenager reached the South Pole on Friday after a 120-mile trek, achieving his goal of making it to both ends of the Earth within a calendar year, a spokeswoman said.

Janek Meila, 16, who lost his right arm and left leg in an accident two years ago, reached the pole with two companions with whom he set off Dec. 17, said Justyna Sliwicka, who talked to the expedition's leader over a satellite phone.

"They are happy they made it, but very tired and they need sleep," Sliwicka said.

Mela set a record in April by becoming the youngest and most severely handicapped person to reach the North Pole, when he trekked some 90 miles in forbidding weather, she said.

Leading both trips was Marek Kinski, a businessman who reached both ends of the globe on solo trips in 1996 and 1997. A cameraman was also part of the team.

## IN THE STATES

## Crowds ring in new year

BY DESMOND BUTLER

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Revelers from Times Square to downtown Los Angeles welcomed 2005 amid elaborate celebrations that included dazzling fireworks, laser lights and music.

Many said they hoped the new year would bring peace to all corners of the world, especially Iraq. Others prayed for tsunami victims in South Asia, saying the tragedy would be on their minds as the new year dawned.

"You still have to remember what's going on in the world because it affects everybody and it should affect the celebration," said Chris Lawrence, 21, of Newburgh, N.Y.

In the West, people crowded Las Vegas' strip to mark a New Year's Eve party billed as the nation's largest outside Times Square. A dazzling display of py-

rotechnics brightened the sky early Saturday, delighting thousands of people celebrating at hotels, clubs and even a food court-turned-nightclub.

Thousands of revelers in downtown Los Angeles partied in the new year with international DJs and carnival rides. Laser lights danced off high-rise office buildings as people waving glow sticks jammed the wide streets and danced to electronic beats into the wee hours.

"It's a bunch of kids dancing in the streets. It's awesome," said Annabelle Abayon, 29.

In New York, revelers enjoyed clear skies as they celebrated the 100th annual New Year's countdown in Times Square. And, for the first time in 32 years, the party went on without Dick Clark, who was recovering from a stroke.

Daytime talk show host Regis

Philbin stood in for Clark on ABC-TV's "New Year's Rockin' Eve," calling it "The greatest temp job in the world."

Nearly a million people filled Times Square, the festive mood broken only by a moment of silence honoring those killed in the earthquake and tsunami in South Asia.

The crowd broke into a chorus of "Auld Lang Syne" after the 1,000-pound Waterford crystal ball made its descent from atop Times Square.

Outgoing Secretary of State Colin Powell, a native New Yorker, pressed a giant button with Mayor Michael Bloomberg to begin the ball's descent.

"In my lifetime I've served in many places around the world, and wherever I happened to be the turn of the year just didn't feel right unless I had in some way seen or heard about the ball coming down on time," Powell said Friday.



Confetti snows down in New York's Times Square moments after the new year begins Saturday. A century after the first New Year's Eve celebration in Times Square, close to a million revelers welcomed 2005 with wild cheering, confetti, fireworks and kisses, while also pausing to mourn those lost in the South Asia tsunami.

## Memo clarifies torture prohibition, but impact uncertain

BY KEN GUGGENHEIM

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A prisoner doesn't have to undergo excruciating pain to be considered a victim of torture, the Justice Department now says. But it's not clear whether this revised, broader definition of torture will change the treatment of foreign detainees.

The White House says the new Justice Department memo defining torture doesn't reflect a change in policy because the administration has always abided by international laws that prohibit the mistreatment of detainees.

The memo's biggest impact could be on next week's Senate confirmation hearings

for chief White House counsel Alberto Gonzales, who was nominated by President George W. Bush to replace John Ashcroft as attorney general.

Gonzales and other administration lawyers wrote memos that said the president's wartime powers superseded anti-torture laws and treaties. Human rights advocates say those memos effectively condoned abuse and set the stage for the mistreatment of inmates at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq and at Guantanamo Bay.

The Justice Department in June specifically disavowed an August 2002 memo to Gonzales that said cruel, inhuman and degrading acts may not be considered torture if they don't produce intense pain and suffering.

That memo was replaced by the Dec. 30

memo from Daniel Levin, acting chief of the Office of Legal Counsel. It opens by bluntly stating they "want to be consistent to American law and values and to international law."

The 17-page memo does not address two of the most controversial assertions in the first memo: that Bush, as commander in chief in wartime, had authority superseding anti-torture laws and that U.S. personnel had legal defenses against criminal liability in such cases.

Levin said those issues need not be considered because they "were not inconsistent with the president's unequivocal directive that United States personnel not engage in torture."

But the new document contradicts the previous version, saying torture need not be

limited to pain "equivalent in intensity to the pain accompanying serious physical injury, such as organ failure, impairment of bodily function, or even death."

Instead, the memo concludes that anti-torture laws passed by Congress equate torture with physical suffering "even if it does not involve severe physical pain" but still must be more than "mild and transitory." That can include mental suffering under certain circumstances, but it would not have to last for months or years, as the previous document said.

The White House said Friday that the United States has operated under the spirit of the Geneva Conventions, which prohibit violence, torture and humiliating treatment.

Associated Press writer Curt Anderson contributed to this report.

## Calif., Nevada reeling from winter storms

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — An unrelenting storm brought more rain and snow to Southern California on Friday, while residents in the Sierra Nevada dug out from as much as 8 feet of snow.

Storms this week have battered California, Arizona, Nevada and Colorado. Three to 4 feet of snow have already fallen on Nevada mountains and as much as a foot of snow came down in the mountains of Colorado. At least nine people have died.

Heavy rain pounded Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles counties. Los Angeles had almost 1.2 inches by midnight, giving it more than 8 inches for the week. Snow was falling over the Tejon Pass on Interstate 5, the main artery linking Los Angeles to the Central Valley and Northern California.

In the Sierra, up to 8 feet of snow



Martha, an old English bulldog, pulls owner Irina Sotnikov through the snow as they go for a walk in the hills of northwest Reno, Nev., during a snowstorm Thursday.

had fallen since Thursday, temporarily shutting down the main highways to Lake Tahoe-area ski resorts and snarling holiday traffic. An avalanche warning was posted for backcountry ski areas from Yuba Pass to Sonora Pass.

The snowfall in Reno was the heaviest in that part of Nevada in more than a decade, as snow forced the airport to shut down

Thursday for only the second time in 40 years, a spokesman said.

A break in the storm allowed Interstate 80 and U.S. 50 to reopen Friday after being closed off and on for more than a day.

Another band of storms was forecast Saturday in Northern California, said weather service meteorologist Daniel Harry.

Five people have died in the storms in California since Monday.

## California law gives gay couples many of the benefits of marriage

BY LISA LEFF

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Like many gay couples, Brian Cornell and her partner Rutliffa long ago established a legal framework for their relationship to match the depth of their emotional commitment.

They drew up wills naming the other as beneficiary, property agreements and powers of attorney, among other documents. The couple of 27 years from Oakland, Calif., wanted to spell out specifics that would have been presumed if they were married.

From Saturday, such improvised arrangements become much less necessary for them and for nearly 29,000 other California couples — the majority of them same-sex mates. A law gives gay and elderly couples who register as domestic partners nearly the same responsibilities and benefits as married spouses.

Same-sex couples in California for the first time have access to a

divorce court for dividing their assets, seeking alimony and securing child support. They also will have automatic parental status over children born during the relationship and responsibility for each other's debts.

It guarantees domestic partners a say over what happens to their loved one's remains at death, means they can't be forced to testify against each other in state courts and provides for conjugal visits in state prisons.

For Cornell, 47, and Rutliffa, 57, one of the biggest changes the California Domestic Partner Rights and Responsibilities Act brings is the ability for them to get a marriage-couple discount on their home and car insurance.

Two groups opposed to marriage rights for gay couples have sued to have it thrown out. They claim it violates the intent of a 2000 ballot initiative approved by voters that holds California will only recognize unions between a man and a woman.

# Murder rates drop in large cities in 2004

BY TOM HAYS  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Big cities were less deadly places to live in 2004 as murder rates declined in several urban areas, including New York, Chicago and Washington, D.C., according to a survey by The Associated Press.

Officials in New York and Chicago credit the drop to crime-fighting strategies that included putting more officers on the street and beefing up patrols in dangerous neighborhoods.

"We really targeted gangs, drugs and guns," Chicago police spokesman Pat Camden said. "Technology enabled us to take our gang tactical units and put them in places where we anticipated violence, areas where drug and blatant."

There were 445 homicides in Chicago as of Thursday, compared with 600 in all of 2003, police said. That is a decrease of about 25 percent, and would mark the first year since 1965 the city finished with fewer than 500 murders. The high mark was in 1992, when there were 940.

Exceptions to the trend were St. Louis, Detroit and Baltimore, where killings were up following steady declines.

The overall results were consistent with official FBI statistics for the first six months of 2004, which showed a nearly 6 percent fall in murders for the nation.

In New York, the murder total was 565 as of Thursday, from 596 in 2003. The total appeared certain to remain below 600 for the third year in a row — levels comparable to the early 1960s. New York saw a slight increase in murders in 2003.

Experts agree that police deserve credit for driving down murders. But they add that other factors — including a growing adult population less prone to violence — are in play.

Elsewhere, Washington was on track to see one of its lowest murder rates in recent years. Through Monday, homicides totaled 193, compared with 240 at the same point in 2003.

Other cities reporting decreases in homicides were Las Vegas, Miami, Phoenix and Philadelphia, while numbers in Los Angeles and San Diego were about even with last year.

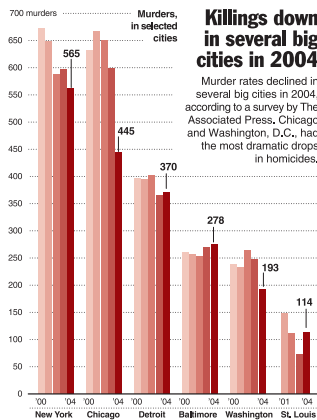
The steepest increase was in St. Louis, where through Thursday murders were up 56 percent — to 114 from 73. But police say the total still is the third-lowest in nearly 40 years, and argue that a campaign to tame a dangerous drug trade is working.

Killings also were up in Detroit to 384, including one early Friday, from a total of 366 in 2003. But police view the total favorably considering the year started with a rash of killings that drove the murder rate up 50 percent through April.

Police spokesman James Tate said the department reversed the trend in part by "putting the crunch on illegal narcotics," an effort that resulted in the confiscation of 574 million in drugs.

A violent drug trade also has fueled an increase in stayings in Baltimore amid continuing turmoil in police leadership, officials said. The city had logged 278 murders through Thursday, compared with 271 at the same time last year.

Associated Press writers Brian Witte in Baltimore, Nathaniel Hernandez in Chicago, Sarah Karush in Detroit and Jim Sailer in St. Louis contributed this report.



## Killings down in several big cities in 2004

Murder rates declined in several big cities in 2004, according to a survey by The Associated Press. Chicago and Washington, D.C., had the most dramatic drops in homicides.

## At least it's for charity



Participants enter the water during the 17th Annual Lobster Dip race into the Atlantic Ocean at Old Orchard Beach, Maine, on Saturday. Close to 500 people braved the 42-degree water while helping to raise funds for the Maine Special Olympics.

# Various English words take a hit on the annual word ban campaign

BY DAVID N. GOODMAN  
The Associated Press

DETROIT — From wardrobe malfunctions to erectile dysfunction, it's been a tough year all around for the guardians of English — language purists from blue, red and battleground states who long to say "You're fired!" to offensive words and phrases.

More than 2,000 nominations arrived in Michigan's far north, where a committee at Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie released its 2005 compilation of language irritants Friday.

Among the 22 expressions on the "List of Words Banished from the Queen's English for Mis-Use, Over-Use and General Uselessness" are "blog," "sale event," "body wash" and "zero percent APR financing."

"We're uber-serious about this list," said committee organizer Tom Pink, referring to the German prefix meaning "over" or "super" that increasingly finds its way into English.

Group members act as "linguistic sounding boards," said John

## And the nominees are...

The Associated Press

Lake Superior State University's 2005 list of banished words, and comments from contributors.

- Blue states/red states
- Flip flop/flip flopper/flip flopping
- Battleground state
- And I approve this message
- Pockets of resistance
- Improvised explosive device, or what orce was known as a bomb
- Enemy combatant
- Carbs
- You're fired!
- Uber
- "tuzel" speak, as in such expressions as f@%kizzle, meaning for sure

- Wardrobe malfunction
- Blog and its variations, including blog, bloggie, blogging, blogosphere
- Webinar, for seminar on the Web
- Zero percent APR financing
- Safe and effective
- Erectile dysfunction
- Journey, in reaction to reality show contestant comments about "how amazing the journey was"
- Body wash, once known as soap
- Sale event
- All new, as in television episodes
- And more!, as in "it's a hamburger meal, but it's much, much more."

Source: Lake Superior State University

Shibley, co-compiler of the list.

Now in its 30th year, the banned word list has drawn irritants and critics. Among the latter are members of the American Dialect Society, who choose their "Words of the Year" at a Jan. 7 annual meeting in Oakland, Calif. Made up of academic linguists, the group is less judgmental and more descrip-

tive in its approach.

Many words appear on both lists.

Shibley said the Lake Superior State group compiles the list in the spirit of fun, and "going through word lists can be like counting across a lost script from an Austin Powers movie."

# Ohio Supreme Court bans tobacco ads on free matchbooks

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Matchbooks given out at bars and stores cannot bear advertising for cigarettes or other tobacco products under the 1998 settlement involving 46 states and the major tobacco companies, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled.

The promotional matchbooks fit the definition of merchandise and are governed

by the ban on youth-oriented tobacco marketing in the settlement, which included Ohio, according to Thursday's unanimous ruling.

Ohio used R.J. Reynolds over matchbooks advertising the company's cigarette brands, saying they were much older than merchandise prohibited in the settlement.

Reynolds, a subsidiary of Reynolds American Inc., contended the matchbooks

were not banned by the detailed agreement, which ended class-action lawsuits brought by the states.

Reynolds won in Franklin County Common Pleas Court, which held that free matchbooks were not merchandise. But the 10th Ohio District Court of Appeals in Columbus reversed that ruling, and the Supreme Court agreed.

The ruling quoted the matchbook manu-

facturer's promotional materials saying that "for every person who picks up a matchbook, there are eight other people who typically see it."

The states that signed the settlement agreement with the companies are supposed to get the \$206 billion over 25 years, including \$10 billion for Ohio. In addition, the tobacco companies promised not to market to children and teens.

## Controversial street

**CO** LONGMONT — The City Council will re-name Chivington Drive after protests that the street honors Col. John Chivington, who is blamed for the slaughter of more than 150 Indians in the Sand Creek Massacre of 1864.

"Longmont set a historic precedent tonight," activist Glenn Spaulding said after the 6-1 vote Tuesday. "I've never been so proud of my city and City Council. It was racist and insensitive to the Native American community."

Militiamen under Chivington's command launched an unprovoked attack on a Cheyenne and Arapahoe encampment on Sand Creek about 160 miles southeast of Denver. Most of the dead were elderly men, women and children.

Mayor Julia Pirnack said she was not convinced the infant was named after the colonel, but she said she supported the change to end the years-long debate.

## Baby-biting charge

**NY** BATAVIA — A Batavia man accused of biting his 3-month-old son because the infant wouldn't stop crying has been charged with felony assault.

Michael Bennett, 23, was indicted on two counts of second-degree assault by a Genesee County grand jury. He was arrested Nov. 18 after taking his son to a Batavia hospital for treatment of bruises to his cheeks, which he suffered two days earlier when he was allegedly bitten by his father, police said.

Family members contacted the Genesee County Department of Social Services after seeing the bruises. County officials then notified police. Bennett faces up to seven years in state prison.

## Tainted cafeteria food

**IL** JOLIET — Will County officials dropped criminal charges against two employees of the state Board of Education accused of allowing tainted food to be served to schoolchildren.

Officials said the state code didn't compel Mark Haller and Katherine Keylor to take action. The two, who worked in Springfield, were responsible for the state's school lunch program.

## Woman, car under ice

**PA** PORTERSVILLE — Divers searching a frozen lake found the body of a 55-year-old woman who apparently had been driving in circles on the ice and may have been lost, officials said.

The body of Betty L. Martof was found in a car submerged in 12 feet of water in Moraine State Park's Lake Arthur on Tuesday, one day after park officials reported vehicle tracks leading to a hole in the ice.

Authorities believe she drove onto a snowmobile trail that led onto the lake and then drove on the ice for about a half-mile, making tracks in tight circles, before the ice broke.

## Christmas Eve layoffs

**MI** DETROIT — Union officials criticized Detroit Public Schools for sending layoff notices to hundreds of teachers on Christmas Eve.

The layoffs affect 372 low-senior-



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

ity teachers who are assigned to subjects without teacher shortages. The cuts, effective Feb. 25, are expected to save the district about \$8 million, a schools spokesman said.

## Very young voters

**NH** LEBANON — Hoping to make government more meaningful to young people, a state lawmaker is working a bill to allow teenagers as young as 14 to vote in municipal elections.

State Rep. Susan Almy, D-Lebanon, wants to give towns and cities the option of providing partial votes to teenagers. Under her plan, 14- and 15-year-olds would get a quarter-vote each, while teens who are 16 and 17 would get a half-vote apiece.

Lebanon High School teacher Andrew Gamble suggested the idea to Almy after hearing about efforts by a California state senator to create a similar "fractional voting" system for state and local elections.

## Honesty pays off

**MO** ST. LOUIS — After briefly considering keeping \$21,500 he found in a shopping cart at work, 17-year-old Jeff Aitken fought the temptation and reunited the cash with its rightful owner.

That honesty this month made his mother mighty proud, though she couldn't communicate it well.



## Don't flinch

Zac Archuleta, bottom, closes his eyes as his friend Brian Cotner jumps over him at the skate park in Nampa, Idaho, as they enjoy Christmas vacation.

For the past three years, Lou Gehrig's disease had robbed 53-year-old Bev Aitken of her ability to speak.

So when she lost her fight the day after the Christmas, Bev Aitken left feeling quite rich about her son's conscience, relatives say.

"I think it gave her hope that everything was going to be OK once she left," Jeff's 20-year-old sister, Jen, said Tuesday from the family's home in Overland, a St. Louis suburb.

Jeff Aitken's life — and that of his family — could have taken a different path Dec. 11, when he spotted a bag full of \$100 bills in a cart at a Schnucks supermarket at the end of his shift.

All told, the bag held \$21,500 — cash Aitken knew could have had many uses, including covering some of the family's health-care costs.

Aitken admitted that the thought of pocketing the money crossed his mind. The only identification with the cash was a check made out to Aladdin Wireless.

He took the money to police two days later as businessman Kamal Abusharbin, having just reported losing the loot, was leaving the station.

Recognizing the bag, Abusharbin hugged the teen and gave him a \$2,000 reward, a new cell phone and a job offer at a business where Aitken can learn how to sell and fix wireless phones.

## Minimum-wage hike

**WA** TUMWATER — The state minimum hourly wage will increase by 19 cents Saturday to \$7.35, maintaining Washington as the state with the highest minimum wage in the country, said Department of Labor and Industries spokesman Ron Langley.

Washington is one of three states, along with Oregon and Florida, that have voter mandates to automatically adjust the minimum wage each year. The federal minimum is \$5.15 an hour.

## Illegal dribble

**MA** SPRINGFIELD — There's some unwanted dribbling going on at the Basketball Hall of Fame.

City officials say the \$109 million dome-shaped building has sprung some leaks since it was built about two years ago.

The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, along with its parking garage and 18.5-acre site, are owned by the city. The property is rented to the hall in a 99-year lease.

The state put up \$42.5 million for the museum's construction, and about \$80,000 of that is left, said city economic developer Thomas McColgan. He expects the remaining money to cover repair costs.

## High marks

**TN** MURFREESBORO — Officials at the state's largest undergraduate university say about 60 percent of lottery scholarship recipients did well enough in their first semester to keep the stipend. Middle Tennessee State University officials say nearly 1,200 scholarship students achieved grade point averages of 3.0 or higher.



## Out of control

Jaymie Sanders loses his balance after going over a bump at the Hesperus Ski Resort in Hesperus, Colo.



## Sewing up their entry

Volunteer Laura Noguchi works to complete the city of Alhambra's Rose Parade float entry titled "The Proud Americans" in Pasadena, Calif.



## Just hangin' out

Azy, a 27-year-old male orangutan, enjoys an unseasonably warm day and a piece of pineapple at Great Ape Trust of Iowa in Des Moines.





**They'll make you flip** Grapevine (Texas) High School won first place in the large intermediate varsity division at the National Cheerleaders Association's national championship at the Dallas Convention Center.



## Horsing around

Walter Hurst, right, puts his order for a six-pack through the drive-thru window of Sun Valley Package and Liquor in Sun Valley, Texas while Mark Lindsey, left, and Mike Hoskins, center, look on.



## Mouse protection

Mary Cochran, of Reno, Nev., walks home on West Second Street in downtown Reno, Nev., during a light snowstorm.

## Heartless thieves

**TX** ALVIN — Thieves broke into a southeast Texas storage unit and took about \$10,000 worth of about 400 already-wrapped presents a charity planned to give to poor families next Christmas, police say.

"When I saw that everything was gone I was devastated," said Carolyn Ewing, head of Manvel-based Project Love — Santa's Angels.

"I became hysterical. ... I just feel violated." Alvin Police Chief Mike Merkel said investigators are trying to determine if the break-in was linked to two other burglaries of other units at the same Alvin storage facility earlier in December.

## Guns in school

**VT** ESSEX — An Essex High School sophomore accused of taking a handgun to school allegedly did the same thing several times before he was caught earlier this month, police said.

The discovery of the unloaded handgun marked the first time a gun was found in the high school, police said, but school records indicate it was the fourth report of a weapon in the school since September.

Essex Police Capt. Leo Nadeau said interviews with high school students and parents revealed that the 15-year-old boy took the .45-caliber Glock handgun into school at least two times the week before the weapon was discovered.

The student will face two charges in his juvenile court legal proceedings.

## 2 charged in cat killing

**IN** EVANSVILLE — Two Wal-Mart employees who police say followed a manager's orders to shoot and kill a stray cat have been charged with federal animal cruelty.

The men, both assistant managers at the Supercenter, were arrested and released after a court appearance.

Christopher Anderson, 29, and Jeffrey Hardin, 21, told police the store's manager ordered them to get rid of the animal that was living in a storage trailer behind their store.

All managers potentially involved in the incident have been suspended without pay pending an internal investigation and could be fired, said Wal-Mart spokeswoman Sharon Weber.

## Museum theft

**CA** DAGGETT — Skilled burglars looted a Mojave Desert museum of its most prized possessions, including antique dolls and Native American artifacts on loan from local families.

The thieves made sure an alarm system was disabled before clearing out the glass display cases in the Daggett Museum, said curator Beryl Bell, who discovered the losses when she went to feed her goldfish on Christmas Day.

"This appeared to be a very neat operation and it appeared they had a shopping list," she said.

## Long-lost photos found

**AL** BIRMINGHAM — A search through the files of an Aniston law firm turned up long-lost photos of the burning of a bus carrying Freedom Riders

through east Alabama in 1961. The 40 photographs depicting the arson of a Greyhound bus in Aniston were donated to the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, which has an archive of photos and stories from the era.

## Raise raises eyebrows

**DE** DOVER — Lt. Gov. John Carney agrees with critics who say a 56 percent pay raise recommended by the Delaware Compensation Commission is "too much." The hike of more than \$36,000 would bring Carney's salary to \$101,588. That's more than 20 states pay their governors. Under state law, the raise will automatically take effect unless rejected outright by the General Assembly.

## Snow fund sought

**IN** INDIANAPOLIS — Gov. Joe Keman asked President Bush to declare a snow emergency for 50 Indiana counties that would make them eligible for federal assistance. A storm last week pounded much of southern and central Indiana with two feet or more of snow.

The money would reimburse local and state agencies for 75 percent of the costs associated with snow removal and rescue efforts over 48 hours.

## Pumped-up prices

**OR** VENETA — The City Council voted to pass a local gas tax. It will raise money to fix decaying roads and reduce a total of about \$3.6 million in deferred maintenance. Veneta becomes the most recent of a dozen cities to embrace a gas tax. Veneta's three-cent-a-gallon tax is expected to generate about \$45,000 a year, said City Administrator Ric Ingham.

## Charters harder to get

**MN** ROSEVILLE — People who want to start state charter schools will now face stricter requirements by the state Department of Education. Potential sponsors and charter school board members will be required to receive extensive training before submitting an application. The department also will require ongoing training.

## Hawks back at home

**NY** NEW YORK — Two red-tailed hawks whose temporary eviction from the ledge of a luxury apartment building sparked angry protests were seen roosting in their restored nesting area, the New York Audubon Society said.

Scaffolding that was used to install a new specially designed nest was removed Tuesday, and Pale Male and Lola were spotted sitting in the Manhattan structure at about noon, the organization said on its Web site. They were then seen taking twigs to the nest.

The hawks' original nest, which had been on a 12th-floor window ledge of the building on Fifth Avenue and 74th Street since 1993, was taken down on Dec. 7 after residents of the building complained it was a health and safety hazard.

For a week after the birds were evicted, bird-lovers gathered outside the building, which counts actress Mary Tyler Moore and CNN anchor Paula Zahn among its residents.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



## Scenic outing

Todd Maas carries his kayak from the Tracyton Boat launch up to his truck after a morning of kayaking in Dyes Inlet in Bremerton, Wash.

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## Accept Christmas traditions

In response to several recent letters, I  
 think those serving with me in the Mid-  
 dle East can verify that there are few  
 snow-covered spruce, reindeer or  
 boughs of holly in the areas near where  
 Christianity started. When Christianity  
 spread into northern Europe, early Chris-  
 tians couldn't keep the local holiday (a  
 celebration of the winter solstice) from  
 being celebrated as it had been for years,  
 so they just accepted it and incorporated  
 it into their own belief system.

While one has the right to voice objec-  
 tions to Christmas being celebrated, my  
 recommendation would be to leave it to  
 the way early Christians did — keep your be-  
 liefs and accept the holiday as it's cele-  
 brated currently.

Merry (belated) Christmas!

Air Force Maj. Andrew Hray

Tallit Air Base, Iraq

## Religion, science can coexist

The writer of the Dec. 9 letter "Evo-  
 lution is still a theory" states "evolution is  
 still a theory," as creationism is another  
 theory," and describes herself as "educat-  
 ed on the theory of evolution." She ob-  
 viously did not learn about evolution from  
 a science class. Evolution is a "theory"  
 like other "theories": electricity, continen-  
 tal drift, relativity and the "theory" that  
 the Earth orbits the sun. A theory is not  
 a guess, it is a statement that best fits  
 the evidence, is supported by observa-  
 tion and experiment, and is accepted by  
 experts as fact.

And the evidence for evolution is over-  
 whelming. Are there "disconnects"?  
 Sure. That's what makes science fun;  
 that's what drives research. Science is  
 not written in stone, it changes as the evi-  
 dence changes. This is one of its  
 strengths but, somehow, some see it as a  
 weakness.

Grouping a series of contradictions  
 and calling it a theory is not science. Cre-  
 ationism is the scientific equivalent of a  
 child saying "No it isn't!" If you choose to  
 believe in creationism, that's great. But  
 don't insult the rest of us by trying to mas-  
 querade it as scientific theory. And  
 please spare us the retorts that quote "sci-

## Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on  
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 be signed, and must include the writer's address  
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entists" who espouse creationism. True  
 "critical thinkers" can easily see holes in  
 creationist speculations.

Hundreds of years ago, Galileo Galilei  
 endorsed the idea that the Earth circled  
 the sun, not vice versa. This was seen as  
 a threat by the church, and he was impris-  
 oned. Now we know the truth, and it is  
 not interpreted as a threat to our reli-  
 gious beliefs. Today, we don't imprison  
 our scientists, we imprison our children  
 in a fortress of ignorance that teaches  
 things like creationism as science. Reli-  
 gion and science need not compete. They  
 can coexist comfortably, as they do in the  
 minds and hearts of scientists all over the  
 world.

Air Force Maj. David Duval

Ramstein Air Base, Germany

## New theory: Intelligent design

I read the letter "Evolution more than  
 a theory" (Dec. 16) with great interest.  
 The writer is quite right in her descrip-  
 tion of "theory." In technical usage, the  
 evolutionary model is an established ex-  
 planation for the origins of the world in  
 which we live. Ironically, it is not a very  
 good theory by that definition.

More and more scientists, religious or  
 not, are expressing doubts about this  
 theory. Advances in the fields of astrophys-  
 ics, geology and biochemistry have

added credibility to the theory that this  
 cosmos is the product of intelligent de-  
 sign. From the delicate balance of our  
 world to support life, to the irreducible  
 complexity of the basic building blocks  
 of life, many are willing to consider an ex-  
 planation that involves something other  
 than purely naturalistic causes. And  
 many of the so-called proofs of an evolu-  
 tionary hypothesis that have been accept-  
 ed for three generations are being found  
 to be untenable in the light of recent dis-  
 coveries.

Evolution and intelligent design are  
 both theories in the technical sense. The  
 latter is the better explanation of the pre-  
 ponderance of the data. But don't say  
 that too loudly, someone might accuse  
 you of being religious.

Dan Taylor

Baghdad

## All troops ensure our freedoms

To U.S. servicemen:

My family and I wanted to send a very  
 heartfelt thank you to all of you serving  
 this great country. The importance of  
 what you do is especially evident during  
 this time of year, when we're able to gather  
 with our families and count our bless-  
 ings.

We realize that the luxury of being  
 with our loved ones comes with a cost  
 that you're paying. We are so grateful for  
 being able to sleep in warm beds at night,  
 snuggle our children to sleep, and watch  
 with anticipation as they open their  
 Christmas presents.

While my family is able to enjoy all of  
 these wonderful gifts and many more,  
 you're working around the clock in all  
 sorts of conditions, sometimes stationed  
 far from your family and loved ones. You  
 affect so many aspects of our lives, and  
 we take many of them for granted. The  
 protection you grant us is worth more  
 than any tangible gift. We want you to  
 know that your sacrifices are not going  
 unnoticed.

So for everybody from the guards who  
 protect our gates to the soldiers putting  
 their lives on the line to protect freedom,  
 thank you and happy holidays.

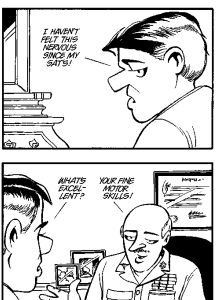
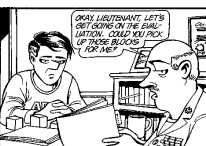
Kristi Dix

RAF Daws Hill, England

## DOONESBURY



by G.B. Trudeau



## OPINION

## What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Reservists treated unfairly  
The Repository, Canton, Ohio

For six Ohio reservists convicted of taking parts from abandoned Army vehicles so they could complete a mission in Iraq, the punishment far exceeds the crime. Soldiers who have been in combat will tell you that desperate times call for desperate measures. If those measures include taking parts from an unused vehicle in order for hours to function, so be it.

The reservists, who were given six months in prison and dishonorable discharges, were in a no-win situation. Had they failed to carry out their mission, they could have been court-martialed for dereliction of duty.

U.S. Sens. Mike DeWine of Ohio and Dick Durbin of Illinois, and no less an expert on combat than Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz, commander of the allied forces in Iraq, are asking the Army to reconsider. The military is right to expect troops to follow proper procedure, but the letter of the law can't always be upheld during war.

Taser's poor record shocking  
Florida Daily, Melbourne

The public arms police with stun guns because it wants to give officers a nonlethal edge over out-of-control suspects. Not every suspect shot with 50,000 volts from a Taser, however, has been out of control. Some have been in custody when repeated shocks caused their deaths.

Amnesty International has documented 74 Taser-related deaths nationwide since 1996, and asked police to stop using the guns until they are proven safe. Taser International of Scottsdale, Ariz., blames other factors and backs medical examiners except when they contradict the company's position.

Meanwhile, more than 5,000 police departments own Tasers. In November, the Transportation Security Administration said the device could be used aboard commercial airliners.

... When they work, Tasers save lives ... The technology, however, is new to know for sure what effect it has on the heart, particularly when drugs are involved. Studies should continue, and departments should review Taser guidelines.

Tasers are supposed to be better than guns. But if they kill when police believe they should be harmless, they are worse than guns.

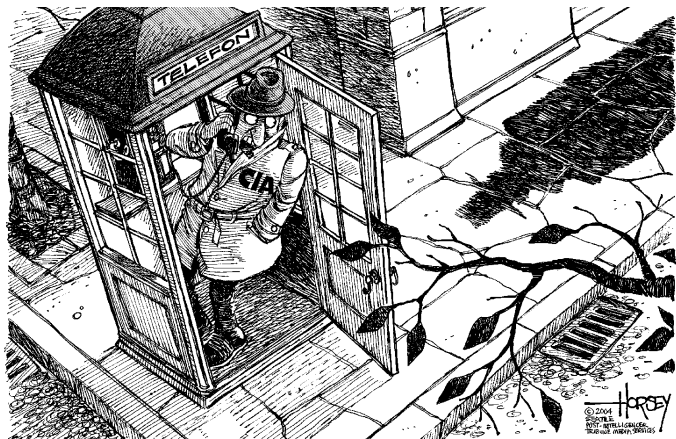
Lack of warning cost lives  
Los Angeles Times

Though it happened on the other side of the world, news of a killer tsunami striking two continents should be seen by Californians as a fundamentally local story. Our home, planet Earth, is seriously flawed.

The tsunami ... underscores how global disasters can exacerbate even natural disasters. It reminds us that many of the people living in its path were have-nots in more ways than one, as they lacked the advance notice that scientists as far away as Alaska and Hawaii had received about what was about to hit them.

There isn't likely to be a 12/26 commission, nor should we pretend that such calamities can be avoided. Questions must be asked about the lack of preparedness. Indonesia was too close to the epicenter to benefit much from an early warning, but a few hours' notice could have saved many lives in India and Sri Lanka.

Expect plenty of debate over whether the tsunami should prompt the building of a comprehensive early warning system. A more sensible approach may be to simply expand the Pacific monitoring system and



"MY COVER'S BLOWN! THEY'RE CLOSING IN!... NO, NOT AL-QAIDA, IT'S THOSE GUYS FROM THE WHITE HOUSE!"

build up emergency mobilization programs in South Asian nations that could be used to respond to a wide variety of calamities.

Right tack can curb drug use  
The Times-Picayune, New Orleans

More teenagers are turning their backs on cigarettes and illicit drugs, according to a federal study that looked at 8th-, 10th- and 12th-graders, and the decline in use is certainly encouraging.

But despite these positive trends, there's troubling data in the study that was done by the University of Michigan for the National Institute on Drug Abuse. The use of inhalants, such as glues and aerosols, increased in the past three years after years of decline. The survey showed a slight increase in under-drinking among older teens, and the drug Oxycontin was one of the only illegal substances that showed an increase in use.

While the high cost of cigarettes and stricter marketing controls get some of the credit, anti-smoking ads have had an impact, too. Nearly three-fourths of the 12th-graders surveyed this year said that they would prefer not to date a smoker — up from a little over 1977.

If young people can be persuaded not to light up because of the risk of cancer, emphysema and heart disease, it's clear that more needs to be done to educate them about the considerable risk involved in using inhalants.

Learn from tsunami disaster  
The Daytona (Fla.) Beach News-Journal

So many deaths. So much devastation. So little warning.

Aid is already pouring into areas affected by the giant waves that smashed into the coastlines of nine countries along the Indian Ocean. Much more will be needed. For every thousand death, authorities say, there are thousands more who have lost their homes and every possession.

The United States is contributing to early relief efforts, and should do more. Donations also are pouring in through the American Red Cross' International Response Fund.

But even as the immediate needs are met, the world's leaders should take stock of the early warning system for natural disasters around the globe.

The only international warning system currently operates in the Pacific Ocean.

That system detected the underground quake that triggered the tsunami, but frantic attempts to warn affected countries failed because there was no formal system of notification. Officials in some areas — such as Thailand — knew of the underwater earthquakes but didn't know about the giant waves they spawned.

Over the coming weeks and months, hundreds of billions of dollars in aid will flow to countries devastated by the tsunami. But even as they plan to assist with disaster relief, nations should consider investing in a system that could help to prevent such tragedy in the future.

Bipartisanship: A capital idea  
The Post-Standard, Syracuse, N.Y.

"I earned capital in the campaign, political capital, and now I intend to spend it," President Bush said in his postelection news conference.

The question is, how will Bush spend that capital, and how far it will go?

So it was surprising to see the White House last [month] poke a stick in the eye of congressional Democrats. Bush announced he would resubmit the names of 20 judicial candidates whom the Democrats had blocked during his first term.

That's Bush's prerogative, of course. But is this the wisest use of political capital? Consider the response of Sen. Charles Schumer, the New York Democrat who will be front and center during confirmation hearings in the Senate Judiciary Committee. "In this opening shot, the White House is making it clear that they are not interested in bipartisanship when it comes to nominating judges."

Merely sending these judicial nominees back for another review may have cost Bush some of his political capital. Drawn-out fights to push one or more of them through to confirmation could quickly drain his account.

Know each area's EMT needs  
Grand Forks (N.D.) Herald

The situation is this, the Herald and The Associated Press have reported: A national committee is revisiting the rules for licensing emergency medical technicians. The committee has useful ideas for beefing up and standardizing EMT training, adding such skills as injecting epinephrine to people suffering severe allergic reactions.

The trouble is that the new curriculum

could more than double the time EMTs must train to get certified, the story reported.

Currently, EMTs need 110 hours of training to get their initial certification.

And volunteers already are hard to come by, ambulance personnel in rural North Dakota and elsewhere reported. If the requirement jumps to 200-plus hours, the task will be extremely difficult or even impossible, they predicted.

They have a point. This situation fulfills the classic saying, "The perfect is the enemy of the good." The good in this case is the way things are right now: volunteer EMTs in rural areas can't do everything, but they can stabilize most patients by rendering basic first aid and transporting them to the hospital. That will change if would-be volunteers are scared off by the training requirements.

The proposed rule sounds great for professional firefighters and others who get paid for their work and some of the training they undertake. But it shouldn't apply to rural areas if it will make things worse rather than better.

It's no secret: Sources help  
Herald-Journal, Spartanburg, S.C.

Across the nation, reporters are being questioned about confidential sources and even being threatened with jail.

Two reporters have been convicted of contempt of court for refusing to reveal their sources about an investigation into how the White House compromised the identity of a CIA operative.

In several places around the nation, federal authorities are subpoenaing reporters and threatening them with incarceration unless they reveal the identities of sources to whom they had promised confidentiality.

What's at stake is the ability of the public to learn what the government is doing and the ability of the news media to uncover corruption at all levels of government and society.

Many, if not most, of the scandals that have been uncovered by the media have been started by unnamed sources. Someone close to the scandal is fed up with what his cronies are doing. He tells a reporter and begs that reporter to keep his identity secret. The reporter complies.

This process is necessary to uncovering the stories that let citizens know where things are going on, particularly when government or business officials do things they shouldn't.



## YOUR MONEY



The Forum Shops at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas are crowded with shoppers Dec. 17. High-end luxury shopping has become a tourist attraction for visits to Las Vegas, especially during the holidays.

## Stores bringing more temptation to Sin City

BY CHRISTINA ALMEIDA  
The Associated Press

**LAS VEGAS** — Just before a luxury shopping mall opened at Caesars Palace in 1992, the mall's marketing director, Maureen Crampton, stood behind the closed doors and thought to herself, "I do hope somebody is on the other side."

She need not have worried. More than a decade later, The Forum Shops is one of the most successful malls in the country, and high-end shopping has become one of the biggest pastimes in America's gambling capital.

Gucci, Prada and Dior are now neighbors along a gilded stretch of the Bellagio hotel-casino. Neiman Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue and Nordstrom anchor the expansive Fashion Show mall farther down the Las Vegas Strip. And boutiques like Burberry, Mikimoto and Jimmy Choo are inside the Venetian hotel-casino.

"Shopping has become an incredible part of the allure of Las Vegas," said Hal Rothman, Las Vegas historian and author.

About 36 million tourists visit the city each year. A recent survey by MRC Group Research Institute found that nearly as many visitors said they shopped (63 per-

cent) as gambled (69 percent) during their stay. Tourists spent an estimated \$2.9 billion shopping last year.

Casino executives discovered that allowing customers to wander away from the gambling floor might be good for business — as long as they kept spending their money on the property.

Guests can now pamper themselves with a \$165 facial, dine on a \$60 Kobe beef burger and buy a \$1,570 Christian Dior handbag without ever going across the street.

"Shopping is one chance for the casinos to recapture some of the money they paid out to the winners," said Keith Scherer, director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. "If you have millions of people visiting, walking by, all you have to do is capture a small percentage of them to be profitable."

The Forum Shops, where a three-story spiral escalator whisks customers high above the Italian marble flooring, produced average annual sales of \$1,471 per square foot in October. That is well above the industry's national average of \$345 in 2003.

SEE VEGAS ON PAGE 23

# Previewing military move should cut down on costs

"Susie Besaw, from the book 'The Savvy Sailor's Spouse,' is new to the military lifestyle but is eager to learn more about how to manage her family and her new lifestyle through the monthly Family Readiness Group meetings of her husband Jake's new command. Editor's note: This is the final installment from 'The Savvy Sailor's Spouse.'"

**A**t our December Family Readiness Group meeting Laurie came to the front and began: "The purpose of this hour-long presentation is to help you understand the basic finances of a military move. Don't expect to be an expert on the military move when I'm done. It takes time and effort to do it right."

"Once you have your paperwork, work with your PFSO representative to figure out what your moving allowances will be. Then, work backward to figure out how much the moving experience is going to cost you."

"Remember, the goal is to make the move cost as close to nothing for you as possible. Planning is the only way to make sure that happens."

"There are six basic sources of moving income from the govern-

ment when moving with INCONUS.

**Money U.** "The biggest is the Dislocation Allowance, or DLA. It is usually a multiple of your BAH."

"Next is your Monetary Allowance for Transportation, or MALT. MALT is a reimbursement for driving your car to your new duty station. Be sure to use the Official Military Table of Distances when calculating it."

"Your spouse is allowed a flat \$50 Per Diem Allowance based on driving 350 miles per day. You and your children also receive a per diem that is a percentage of your spouse's rate."

"If you don't take house-hunting leave, you are eligible for Temporary Lodging Expense, or TLE, within 10 days of arriving at your new duty station."

"Finally, there are two advances your sailor can get from the Navy in order to help you make ends meet during your move: Advance Base Pay and Housing Allowance. A sailor also needs to have justification for these advances signed and approved by their chain of command in order to receive it. Remember, these are not a given. Also, you have to be paid back through deductions in your spouse's pay over the next year or so."

"I recommend you request advance funds only if it is absolutely necessary. I've seen too many mil-

## San Diego to Jacksonville moving costs

INCONUS	Item	Amount Notes
<b>Moving Income</b>		
Dislocation Allowance (DLA)	+1,195	2 months' BAH
Monetary Allowance (MALT)	+468	2,339 miles to Jax
Per Diem Allowance	+788	Flat rate
Temporary Lodging Expense (TLE)	-	No house hunting
Advance Basic Pay	-	Loan
Advance BAH	-	Loan
<b>Total Moving Income</b>	<b>+2,451</b>	
<b>Moving Expenses</b>		
7 Day House Hunting Trip	-	Wife and kid
Round trip plane fare for 2	-1,400	
Lodging for 2	-350	\$50/night
Food	-280	\$20 x 2 people x 7 days
Misc	-300	
Move out of old rental San Diego	-	
Cleaning/Repair	-100	
Deposit Return	+2,100	1.5 mo SD BAH
<b>7 Days driving to Jacksonville</b>		
Gas	-164	All 3 family
Lodging for 3	-350	\$1.75/gal, 25 mpg
Misc	-420	\$50/night
Renting new place Jacksonville	-	
Deposit	-1,350	1.5 mo Jax BAH
Move-in costs	-500	
<b>Total Moving Expenses</b>	<b>-3,414</b>	
<b>Net Moving Expense</b>	<b>-963</b>	Out of pocket cost

Source: Ralph Nelson

Stars and Stripes

tary families spend this lump sum of money on things they didn't really need and then suffer the consequences of smaller pay checks and mounting debt. If you do receive an advance, please think twice about what you're spending it on. You're actually borrowing money from yourself, so be careful."

"In the example I just gave you, I've assumed that the sailor's spouse and child fly across country to find a place to rent, then the family of three drives from San Diego to Jacksonville, Fla., over a week. Finally, they move into the home the spouse found while house-hunting when they arrive in Jacksonville."

"Hey, the family in this example is spending almost a grand of their own money on their move," someone noted. "I thought you said the goal was to try to break even."

"I gave you a bleak example on purpose so we could look for ways to break even. Let's talk about ways to reduce this bill, Laurie said."

Even though everyone in the room was quiet, I could tell many were trying to think of a solution. My mind was blank. Jake and I are doing OK, but \$1,000 was a lot of money to pay for a job-required move!

"How about not taking the house-hunting trip?" Sammy asked. "That'd save \$2,330."

"Possibly," Laurie replied. "In this example, the sailor is sending his spouse and child back East. He could take the leave instead

and leave his family in San Diego, fly MAF, fly in the BQ, and eat in the galley and only spend about \$500, saving \$1,830. Either way, you need to find ways to save \$963 in this example."

"Again, I think it's important to take the house-hunting trip. Moving is hard enough, but it's a real pain if you don't have somewhere to move into."

The memory of the hassle of not having a place when I arrived in San Diego was still fresh.

Laurie continued, "Somebody give me one more way to make your move less expensive."

"How about selling your old appliances," Sammy replied.

"Excellent," Laurie said. "A garage sale, eBay or even placing classified ads in the local newspaper for the bigger items you don't want to move are excellent ideas."

"The list of ways to make your move a less expensive one is endless. Walk through your entire move — before you move — to find the most value."

Copies of Ralph Nelson's books — "The Savvy Sailor" and "The Savvy Sailor's Spouse" — can be purchased by writing to: Master Planning, 500 Washington St., P.O. Box 10071, Rockville, MD 20858 or online at [www.savvysailor.com](http://www.savvysailor.com). This article is written and the book is sold with the understanding that neither the author nor Stars and Stripes are professional financial advisers. If you need advice, please seek professional assistance. The author specifically disclaims any liability, loss or risk — personal or otherwise — incurred as a consequence, directly or indirectly, of using or applying any of the information contained in this article or the book. E-mail for feedback is [finance@stripes.osd.mil](mailto:finance@stripes.osd.mil)





## Sunday Horoscope

It's a day to "make nice" — especially if all the hotheaded energy zinging around lately has caused you to accidentally "make mean." With the Capricorn sun urging us to get ahead and other planets in Sagittarius lighting a fire under that spirit, it's easy to be hasty or harsh. The Libra moon gives us just the right words to use in our apology.

### TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(January 2). When it comes to relationships, you're just plain lucky. It's an incredible year for advancement in your house of marriage and other partnerships if you're willing to fully embrace change. Next month, experiment with new approaches to old problems. Serious soul searching serves you well in February. Love signs are Cancer and Virgo.

### ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Your mind has a conversation with itself. This doesn't mean you are crazy; it means you are sorting things through. You'll be pressured to make a decision but should not until you have absolutely no hesitation about doing so.

### TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Everyone is, to some degree, addicted to suffering — even you. Be aware of the signal you're sending to someone near that it's OK to vent frustrations on you. When it's no longer OK with you, he or she will stop.

### GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

The stars support you in developing a rich fantasy world. Liberate your imagination. If you don't keep a journal, this is the day to start. Write as though you never intend another soul to read it.

### CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Procrastination is a self-imposed limitation that undermines your finances, love life and personal growth. You feel like giving in to distraction and excuses. Have someone you respect hold you to your word.

### LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

You're entrusted with an important decision because others see you as

wise and just. Money tip: Use any extra funds you have to buy, fix or manufacture something you can resell.

### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

The sensual elements of life pop out at you in vivid detail — a sign of your improving heart.

### Holiday Mathis

Since you're the resident bon vivant, teach loved ones how to either prepare or appreciate a fine meal.

### LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

The stars offer you a sense of oneness — the only caveat being you must drop your need to be a "special" case. Seeing the similarities instead of differences between people is healing.

### SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

You're recognizing new emotions. Your feelings for a certain earth sign (Taurus, Virgo or Capricorn) are somewhere between tender affection and romantic attraction. Beware of a sharp-tongued woman.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

(From the outside, life looks much as it did yesterday, but internally, you're different. Brilliant thoughts are likely to pop into your mind during an evening activity, such as taking a shower or brushing your teeth.

### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Education is highlighted — not the days you were in school, though. While someone else was engaged in formal learning, you were taking lessons at the school of hard knocks. Both ways are valid. Give yourself credit.

### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Let nothing stop you from thriving now. You may find that despite your brio and wit you are unable to sway loved ones to join you. Some journeys are better savored alone.

### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

You'll engage in your own version of building sand castles. Endeavors that are beautiful because of their temporal nature please your intellect. However, this does not include vivid conversations that go nowhere.

Creators Syndicate

## Pronunciation of 'poinsettia'

My wife and I call those beautiful red and white flowers that so wonderfully symbolize Christmas "poinsett-as." Our know-it-all college freshman daughter, however, insists that our pronunciation is wrong, and that we should be saying "poinsett-ee." Well, I don't know anyone who says "poinsett-ee" and I feel funny saying "poinsett-ee" too.

Yes, there are commentators who, like your daughter, decry the "t-ta" pronunciation of "poinsettia," and could acceptably all the "t-ta" pronunciation, which, of course, more accurately reflects the word's spelling. But

you're right: the "t-ta" pronunciation is at least as common as the prescribed pronunciation, and in fact appears to be the choice of most current speakers.

We also have abundant backing for a pronunciation in which a "t" is added to the first syllable, making it sound like "point."

According to our evidence, all of these variations are established, and you shouldn't feel at all funny saying "poinsett-ee" — most other people are saying it too.

This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's Wordwatch, P.O. Box 261, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

## Vandalism of van turns into war of words with neighbors

**Dear Abby:** I may have started a war with my neighbors.

About two months ago, their son "Ricky" smashed a brick on my van while it was parked in my driveway. The damage was estimated at more than \$500. I asked Ricky's parents to pay for it because I had paid them \$100 a few months before, after I accidentally ran over their car with Ricky's bike in the driveway. They didn't have to ask for the money — I volunteered it.

When I told my neighbors about the damage, they refused to pay, saying my daughter had gotten their boy upset over a ball game they were playing. They said I should take them to court — so that's exactly what I'm doing.

After they were served with the court papers, they called my boss and complained that I had cut them off while driving my company vehicle, a school bus. It was an outright lie. Things are starting to get out of hand. Am I wrong for wanting my van fixed?

**Dear Frustrated:** Of course not. If you haven't already done so, write to your boss immediately and explain exactly what is going on. Then inform the police

about the boy's act of vandalism to your van. You didn't start a war. Your neighbors did when they refused to make good on the damage to your son caused.

P.S. Now that you know the kid is trouble, keep your daughter away from him.

### Dear Abby



**Dear Abby:** I am a 14-year-old girl who recently found out that I am the daughter of a sperm donor. I had always thought my father had died and no one would tell me why.

Now I feel unloved by whoever is my father. It scares me to think I may have brothers or sisters out there, and that he may not care that I exist. I don't understand why it's legal to just donate when a child may be born. Is there any way I can find out anything about my "real" father — or any advice you can give me?

### — Doesn't Understand in Pennsylvania

**Dear Doesn't Understand:** The person who donated his sperm so that you could be conceived thought he was doing a noble deed — helping a couple who desperately wanted a child but were unable to do so. As far as I know, there is no way to trace his identity.

## Shoe's wife far too attached to family to be good spouse

**Dear Annie:** Three months ago, our son married a 34-year-old girl, "Lena." Lena is obsessively attached to her family and is not being a wife to our son. She has refused to consummate the marriage, although she wanted a big wedding and proposed to love him.

Lena drives to her parents' house every day on her way to work and eats breakfast with them. She stops back for lunch. She usually goes there on the weekends as well and talks to her mother constantly on the phone. She even showers and does her laundry at her parents' home.

It seems to me that Lena cannot accept the fact that she is married and has new responsibilities. She has cooked only three meals in three months. My son buys all the groceries and has cooked all the other meals.

Lena seems desperately enmeshed with her family, and they are allowing her dependency to continue. She suffers from numerous fears and anxieties. She refuses to be alone in our son's house and is never there to greet him when he comes home from work. Our son is no longer the fun, outgoing person he used to be. He is dreadfully sad. We see little hope for this

marriage, but he continues to believe that somehow Lena will change.

### — Desperate Parents

**Dear Parents:** We know how hard it is to see your child unhappy. We also assume your son is confiding in you because you know a great many intimate

details about his marriage. Nonetheless, you need to step aside. The best thing you can do for your son is urge him to seek counseling, with or without Lena, and decide if the marriage can be improved, and if not, what the best course of action would be.

Whatever he chooses, please be supportive without judging his situation or his wife.

**Dear Annie:** As a Catholic, I have been baffled by the hand-shaking that goes on during Mass. I always have found it unhygienic to shake hands with others, and then with those same hands receive communion.

However, since the flu season is upon us, our church has suggested that instead of shaking hands, parishioners wish their neighbors peace verbally. I'm hoping and urging the Catholic Church to adopt this new idea permanently. It's much safer and healthier.

**Dear Abby:** I am a 30-year-old woman who was recently widowed. Although my new status is painful, I feel that because I am no longer married, I may take back my maiden name. My dilemma stems from the fact that I receive a pension from my husband's company, and others have told me that if I don't consider myself married, that I shouldn't accept his pension.

Are they right? Is this disrespectful to my deceased husband? Am I being selfish? I don't want to upset my in-laws. Hurting and disrespecting anyone is the last thing I want to do.

### — Confused in Ohio

**Dear Confused:** As a widow, you are entitled to call yourself either by your married name or your maiden name.

The choice is yours. As a widow, you have a right to receive your husband's pension benefits until they run out. I don't know who gave you the bad advice you repeated to me, but that person is mistaken. To accept the money and go on with your life is neither selfish nor disrespectful.

Letters to this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.pittsburgh.com/dearabby> or a universal Press Syndicate.

## Shoe's wife far too attached to family to be good spouse

— Trying To Be a Good Neighbor on the East Coast

**Dear East Coast:** Hands thank me a tremendous number of germs, although the act of shaking someone's hand provides a sense of community and bonding that a verbal expression cannot match.

Parishioners who are concerned about getting sick this season might like to matter with their parish priest.

**Dear Annie:** My fiancé and I are planning the guest list for our wedding. We both come from huge families, and the list is already quite large. We are in our 30s, and many of our friends already are married with children.

We would like to limit the children to immediate family only. Please suggest a tactful way to notify the other guests that children are not allowed.

### — A Frequent Fiance

**Dear Fiance:** If the children's names are not on the invitation, it means they are not invited. Please make it indicate they wish to bring their children anyway should be told, "Sorry, but we are limiting children to the immediate family."

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Mary Sauer, longtime editors of the Amn Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [annie@mailbox.comcast.net](mailto:annie@mailbox.comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

### Annie's Mailbox





## SCOREBOARD

## AFL • NFL • Radio

## Sunday

**AFL-Sports, midweek college football:** Colton bowl, Texas A&M vs. Tennessee (dis.).  
**AFL-Pacific:** Pacific (11-1) beat Oakland 20 a.m.-college football: Fiesta Bowl, Utah vs. Pittsburgh (dis.).

**AFL-Sports, 6 a.m.-college basketball:** Harvard vs. Cornell (dis.).

**AFL-Sports, 9 a.m.-college football:** Rose Bowl, Texas vs. Michigan (dis.).  
**AFL-Sports, 1 p.m.-college football:** Utah vs. Boston College, Georgia vs. Wisconsin (dis.).  
**AFL-Sports, 1:30 p.m.-college football:** Fiesta Bowl, Utah vs. Pittsburgh (dis.).  
**AFL-Radio, 7 a.m.-NFL:** Teams TBD.  
**AFL-Radio, 10 a.m.-NFL:** Teams TBD.  
**AFL-Radio, 10 p.m.-NFL:** Teams TBD.  
**AFL-Pacific, 10 p.m.-NFL:** Teams TBD.  
**AFL-Radio, 10 p.m.-NFL:** Teams TBD.

## Monday

**AFL-Athletic, 1 a.m.-NFL:** Teams TBD (dis.).  
**AFL-Sports and Radio, 2:30 a.m.-NFL:** Dallas Cowboys vs. Arizona (dis.).  
**AFL-Sports, 8:30 a.m.-college basketball:** Arizona vs. at Arizona (dis.).

**AFL-Sports, 1 p.m.-college basketball:** Wisconsin vs. Michigan (dis.).  
**AFL-Sports, 3 p.m.-college basketball:** Cincinnati vs. at Cincinnati (dis.).  
**AFL-Sports, 8:30 p.m.-Golf:** 2005 PGA Tour Preview Show (dis.).

## Tuesday

**AFL-Sports, 1 a.m.-NBA:** Cleveland at Charlotte (dis.).

**AFL-Athletic, Pacific and Radio, 2 a.m.-college football:** Sugar Bowl, Auburn vs. Virginia Tech (dis.).

**AFL-Sports, 3 p.m.-Figure skating:** GP of Figure Skating Final (dis.).

**AFL-Sports, 6:30 p.m.-Seattle at Miami.**  
**AFL-Sports, 1 and 7 p.m.-college football:** Sugar Bowl, Auburn vs. Virginia Tech (dis.).

All Times Central European Time. Italics indicate delayed broadcasts. All listings are subject to change. Visit [www.mylife.net](http://www.mylife.net) for more details.

## Pro football

## NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	PF
AFC East				
N.Y. England	11	0	.667	342
N.Y. Jets	10	0	.667	304
Buffalo	10	0	.667	271
Miami	4	1	.067	252

NFC				
	W	L	Pct	PF
AFC West				
Indianapolis	12	0	.800	598
San Diego	10	0	.667	511
Houston	7	0	.667	271
Tennessee	4	1	.067	252

AFC				
	W	L	Pct	PF
AFC North				
Pittsburgh	11	0	.667	342
Cincinnati	7	0	.667	336
Cleveland	6	0	.667	271

NFC				
	W	L	Pct	PF
AFC West				
San Diego	10	0	.667	511
Denver	7	0	.667	342
Kansas City	5	0	.667	342

AFC				
	W	L	Pct	PF
AFC North				
Philadelphia	6	0	.667	267
Dallas	5	0	.667	267
Washington	5	0	.667	267

NFC				
	W	L	Pct	PF
AFC West				
Atlanta	11	0	.667	342
Atlanta	7	0	.667	342
New Orleans	7	0	.667	342
Tampa Bay	5	0	.667	342

NFC				
	W	L	Pct	PF
AFC West				
Green Bay	6	0	.667	342
Detroit	6	0	.667	342
Detroit	6	0	.667	342

NFC				
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AFC West				
Seattle	7	0	.667	342
St. Louis	7	0	.667	342
St. Louis	7	0	.667	342

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NFC				
	W	L	Pct	PF
AFC West				
San Francisco	2	1	.067	252
San Francisco	2	1	.067	252

NFC				
	W	L	Pct	PF
AFC West				
San Francisco	2	1	.067	252
San Francisco	2	1	.067	252

NFC				
	W	L	Pct	PF
AFC West				
San Francisco	2	1	.067	



# Yankees reach tentative deal for J. J. Thomson

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — One week later, Randy Johnson again appears headed to New York.

The Arizona Diamondbacks and Yankees reached a tentative agreement Thursday on a deal to send the Big Unit to the Bronx for pitchers Javier Vazquez and Brad Halsey, young catcher Dioner Navaro and \$9 million, a baseball official said on condition of anonymity.

The teams finished putting the deal in writing Friday but do not intend to submit it to the commissioner's office until Monday, the official said.

While not confirming the substance of the report, Diamondbacks managing partner Ken Kendrick said the teams "are in serious discussions."

Kendrick also indicated Arizona was working on another deal involving Vazquez. One possible suitor was the Los Angeles Dodgers, who could use outfielder Shawn Green and pitcher Brad Penny to Arizona.

Separate trades, if they include Los Angeles, would in essence reach the same conclusion as the three-team effort that fell apart Dec. 21 when the Dodgers backed out. Arizona also could deal Vazquez to another team.

"We would not agree to a final deal or a trade of Randy Johnson unless we believed it would benefit our team," Kendrick said. "That would require in return at least two significant major league ballplayers."

Kendrick said, however, that no deal could be completed, or the paperwork even submitted to the commissioner's office, until early next week.

In addition, the Yankees finalized a \$3 million, one-year contract with Tim Lincecum, a deal that includes a club option for 2006.

Even after the Yankees and Diamondbacks finalize their deal, several things must happen before the trade could become complete.



Arizona Diamondbacks ace Randy Johnson reportedly will be traded to the New York Yankees for pitchers Javier Vazquez and Brad Halsey, catcher Dioner Navaro and \$9 million. A baseball official said the teams will submit paperwork for the deal on Monday.

■ Because the money was greater than \$1 million, commissioner Bud Selig must give his approval, which probably won't happen until next week.

■ All players must pass physicals.

■ Johnson has to formally give approval because he has a no-trade clause.

■ The Yankees want a 72-hour window to negotiate an extension with the 41-year-old Johnson, whose current contract expires after the 2005 season.

Johnson, a 10-time All-Star, would join a reshaped rotation that now includes Carl Pavano and Jaret Wright.

The Yankees, who already had Mike Mussina and Kevin Brown, bring a 3-0 lead in the American League championship se-

ries and lost in seven games to the Boston Red Sox.

The money New York is sending Arizona, which will be paid over several seasons, would offset some of the \$34.5 million Vazquez is owed: \$10.5 million in 2005, \$11.5 million in 2006 and \$12.5 million in 2007. New York is making the final \$1 million payment of his signing bonus, which is due Friday.

Johnson was 16-14, a record skewed by playing for a team that went 51-111, tied for the 10th-most losses in major league history.

Martinez, 37, a two-time All-Star, played for New York from 1996 to 2001, helping the Yankees win five AL pennants and four

World Series titles. A close friend of Derek Jeter, Martinez hit 262 with 23 homers and 76 RBIs for Tampa Bay last season.

Martinez gets \$2.75 million next season and New York has a \$3 million option for 2006 with a \$250,000 buyout.

## Cardinals working on 2B Alomar

ST. LOUIS — Searching for the final piece to a revamped middle infield, the St. Louis Cardinals are working on a deal with switch-hitting second baseman Roberto Alomar.

Cardinals spokesman Brian Bartow said Thursday that "certainly there are talks between the two sides" as the NL champions look to replace Tony Womack, who signed this month with the New York Yankees.

Bartow labeled as premature a report that the Cardinals had signed Alomar, a 10-time Gold Glove winner, to a \$500,000, one-year contract.

Alomar turns 37 in February and played in just 56 games last year because of a broken right hand after being hit by a pitch.

Alomar's agent, Jaime Torres, refused to discuss the Cardinals' interest in the 12-time All-Star, who is a career .300 hitter.

Alomar split last season between Arizona and the Chicago White Sox, hitting a combined .263 with four home runs and 24 RBIs in 171 plate appearances.

## Boston's Damon gets married

BOSTON — Boston Red Sox center fielder Johnny Damon married girlfriend Michelle Mangan in Florida Thursday in an affair attended by stars of the sports, television and music worlds.

Red Sox teammates Doug Mientkiewicz, Mike Timlin, Kevin Millar, Bronson Arroyo and Kevin Youkilis were among the 175 guests at Orlando's Ritz Carlton Grande Lakes Hotel. AC/DC lead singer Brian Johnson and celebrity chef Todd English also attended.

The engaged couple called three days of events, including a private comedy show for guests featuring Mike O'Malley, Craig Shoemaker, and from "Saturday Night Live," Seth Meyers.

# Suspect in Vanderbilt player's death surrenders

The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — A man charged with killing a Vanderbilt football player turned himself in Friday, police said.

Rodney "Roscoe" Roman was charged with first-degree murder in the death of Kwane Doster, a running back with Vanderbilt, and two counts of attempted murder, Tampa police spokesman Joe Durkin said.

Roman was accompanied by his lawyer, Daniel Castillo, when he surrendered at the Hillsborough County Jail, Durkin said.

"My client is not the person they are looking for," Castillo told The Tampa Tribune. "They got the wrong guy."

Doster was shot to death Sunday after his friends got in a dispute with three other men about whose car was better, Durkin said.

Police said Roman, who is in his late 20s, fired the shot that killed Doster and was the driver of the car that pulled up alongside the vehicle Doster was riding in Sunday.

Roman's lawyer did not immediately return a message Friday seeking comment.

## Sports briefs

Doster was the first Vanderbilt player recognized as the South-eastern Conference Freshman of the Year in 2002 after setting a team record of 798 rushing yards.

## Teams, athletes helping with tsunami relief efforts

Sports teams, athletes and even big game games are organizing relief efforts for victims of the tsunami disaster in Asia.

The American Red Cross will collect donations at the Rose Bowl and the Cotton Bowl on Saturday; volunteers from Northwest Medical Teams will accept relief assistance donations at Sunday's NFL game between the Atlanta Falcons and Seattle Seahawks.

"You have all seen it on television and seen the devastation," said Seattle coach Mike Holmgren, whose wife, Kathy, is a board member of the Northwest Medical Teams. "People are always asking, 'What can I do?' This is one of the things we can do."

The NBA's Charlotte Bobcats

accepted donations from fans at Friday night's game against the Seattle SuperSonics, and the New Jersey Nets will donate a percentage of all tickets sold over the next two weeks to UNICEF.

The son of baseball great Roberto Clemente is sending money and two tons of supplies — originally destined for Nicaragua to honor his late father's ill-fated humanitarian flight exactly 32 years ago — to tsunami victims.

"My father always said, 'If you have an opportunity to make things better and you don't, then you are wasting your time on Earth,'" Roberto Clemente Jr. said in a telephone interview Thursday with The Associated Press from Puerto Rico.

Some of the biggest names in tennis are also assisting victims. Roger Federer, Andy Roddick and Lleyton Hewitt, the three top-ranked players, will auction autographed rackets, with the money going to UNICEF relief.

Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova donated \$10,000 Thursday to the victims in Thailand. Sharapova, in Bangkok for an exhibition match against Venus Williams, presented the check to Thailand's prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

## Nuggets' Anthony, MTV VJ Vasquez engaged

DENVER — Carmelo Anthony finally has some good news about his personal life: He's engaged to MTV VJ La La Vasquez.

The Denver Nuggets' star said Thursday he made his proposal, accompanied by a 9-carat ring, on Christmas Day. They haven't set a wedding date.

The engagement follows a series of unflattering off-the-court news about Anthony. He was charged with misdemeanor drug possession in October after airport inspectors found marijuana in his backpack. The charge was dropped after a friend said the marijuana was his.

In November, three men were arrested on suspicion of trying to extort \$3 million from Anthony with a videotape of a bar fight that broke out after someone spit a drink on Vasquez in Manhattan in September.

In early December, Anthony popped up on a homemade DVD circulating in Baltimore, his hometown. Someone on the DVD warns that people who tip police about drug deals "get a hole in their head."

Anthony said he had nothing to do with the DVD and condemned the message.

## Krajicek helps put Netherlands in main draw

PERTH, Australia — The 15-year-old sister of 1996 Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek helped the Netherlands earn its first spot in nine years, beating Black 7-6 (7), 7-5, giving the Dutch the eighth and final place in the field. Zimbabwe won a mixed doubles set 7-6 to make the final score 2-1.

The Dutch are grouped with the defending champion United States, Slovakia and Australia. The United States, which plays the Netherlands on Tuesday, is without top-ranked Lindsay Davenport, who has a knee injury. Michaela Krajicek, who won this event with Serena Williams in 2003 and Davenport last year.



# Illinois routs Cincinnati in Vegas

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Deron Williams had 18 points and six rebounds to help top-ranked Illinois beat No. 22 Cincinnati 67-45 Friday night in the final game of the Las Vegas Holiday Classic.

Dee Brown and Roger Powell added 13 points apiece for Illinois (14-0), which did not trail for the sixth consecutive game. Jason Maxiell led the Bearcats (11-1) with 12 points and 11 rebounds.

Illinois is off to its best start since 1988-89, when it began 17-0 and reached the Final Four. The Illini have only trailed for 21 minutes, 32 seconds of 560 minutes this season. The last time Illinois trailed was Dec. 9 against Georgetown.

**No. 13 Washington 81, California 67:** At Seattle, The Simmons scored 18 points, and Bobby Jones had 16 to help Washington win a Pac-10 Conference opener.

Will Conroy and Jamaal Williams each added 11 points as Washington (11-1) extended its home winning streak to 14 games, the longest in six years. The Huskies also won their seventh straight overall, the most since 1990-91.

Richard Midgley led California (7-4) with 18 points.

**No. 16 Iowa 67, Saint Louis 58:** At Iowa City, Iowa, Pierre Pierce scored 24 points and led a late 10-0 run that enabled Iowa to finally pull away from St. Louis.

Adam Halausk added 13 points for the Hawkeyes (12-1). Ick Ohanon had 15 points for Saint Louis (2-10) and Anthony Drejai 14.

In Thursday's games:

**Missouri 63, No. 12 Gonzaga 61:** At Columbia, Mo., Gonzaga, accustomed to pulling off upsets, fell to Missouri just two days after the Tigers edged No. 3 Oklahoma Sooners.

Jason Conroy had 16 points and 13 rebounds, and Missouri survived a lengthy cold stretch at the finish to hang on.

The Tigers (7-5) scored just two points in the final 8½ minutes, yet improved to 16-38 against teams in the Top 25 in six seasons.



Illinois' Roger Powell dunks during the first half of the top-ranked Illini's 67-45 rout of No. 22 Cincinnati in the championship game of the Las Vegas Holiday Classic on Friday night.

under Quin Snyder. It was the Tigers' first victory over a ranked opponent since a defeat of Oklahoma State in double overtime last Feb. 24 at home.

**No. 4 Illinois 69, Northwestern (La) St. 51:** Luther Head scored 18 points to lead Illinois past Northwestern State in the Las Vegas Holiday Classic. The Illini (13-0) have their best record since going 17-0 in 1988-89.

Jermaine Spencer, Clifton Lee and Jermaine Wallace each had seven points to lead

Northwestern State (5-7).

**No. 4 North Carolina 107, Cleveland St. 64:** At Chapel Hill, N.C., Raymond Felton ran his streak of consecutive three-pointers to 12 and finished with 13 points and eight assists for North Carolina (11-1).

Omari Westley had 18 points for the Vikings (3-5), who lost their fifth straight.

**No. 5 Wake Forest 98, North Carolina A&T 76:** At Winston Salem, N.C., Justin Gray scored 21 of his 23 points in the first half to lead Wake Forest (11-1). Sean Booker scored 18 points for the Aggies (1-11).

**No. 7 Syracuse 80, Hofstra 75:** At Syracuse, N.Y., Hakim Warrick scored 29 points and the Orange (13-1) rallied to beat previously unbeaten Hofstra. Antoine Agudio had 17 points for the Pride (9-1).

**No. 11 Connecticut 123, Quinnipiac 71:** At Hartford, Conn., Josh Boone had 22 points and eight blocks to lead Connecticut (8-1) to a rout of Quinnipiac (4-5).

It was the highest output for Connecticut in 251 games at the Hartford Civic Center.

**No. 14 Arizona 84, Richmond 71:** At Tucson, Ariz., Chris Rodgers tied his career high with 20 points to help Arizona (10-2) win the title game of the Fiesta Bowl Classic.

Jamaal Scott had 16 points for Richmond (5-5).

**No. 19 Louisville 78, E. Kentucky 63:** At Louisville, Ky., Francisco Garcia scored 23 points and went over 1,000 for his career to lead the Cardinals (10-2).

Michael Hayes scored 22 points and reached the 1,000-point mark on Eastern Kentucky (8-3).

**No. 21 Mississippi State 71, Virginia Tech 65:** At New Orleans, Lawrence Roberts scored 25 points and grabbed 19 rebounds as Mississippi State (12-2) rallied in the Sugar Bowl Classic.

Carlos Dixon led the Hokies (6-5) with 19.

**No. 22 Cincinnati 95, Longwood 69:** Jason Maxiell had 30 points and eight rebounds for Cincinnati (11-0) in the Las Vegas Holiday Classic. Michael Jefferson scored 27 points for Longwood (1-15).

## AFA wins; Army and Navy fall

The Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Tim Keller made his first four three-point attempts and finished with 12 points Friday to help Air Force beat Rutgers 70-53 and end a three-game losing streak. Keller also had five assists and Antoine Hood added 12 points for the Falcons (7-5), who ended Rutgers' four-game winning streak in their first game against a Big East opponent since 1988.

For years, teams from major conferences had no compelling reason to play Air Force, a

long-struggling program that last season made its first NCAA tournament appearance since 1962. Now, as the Scarlet Knights (6-4) learned, there are new reasons to avoid the Falcons. Methodical and mind-numbing as a metronome, Air Force ran its slow-down, Princeton-style offense by the book, rarely letting Rutgers run or get into any kind of flow.

Ricky Shields had 12 points and Quincy Douby 10 for the Scarlet Knights, who did not score their first transition bucket until 2 minutes were gone in the second half. Air Force went 10-for-24 from three-point range, most of the shot clock coming with the attack clock in single digits. Air Force held Rutgers to 20 points in the first half and, although the pace picked up a bit in the second, the Knights didn't really start running and scoring until after they had fallen behind by 16 with about 5 minutes left.

In Thursday's games:

**Fairleigh Dickinson 69, Army 53:** At Hackensack, N.J., Chad Timberlake had 18 points and seven rebounds to lead Fairleigh Dickinson (5-7) past Army (2-8).

Tamari Fxrt added 15 points for Fairleigh Dickinson. Colin Harris led Army with 15 points.

Army pulled within eight points twice, who did not score, but Fairleigh Dickinson went on a 15-1 run, surging to a 55-32 lead, its biggest of the night, with 9:11 left.

**Ctadel 87, Navy 72:** At Charleston, S.C., Donny McLendon scored 23 points and Kevin Hammack 19 for Citadel (8-2), which has its best record since 1992.

The Bulldogs led only 36-32 at halftime after Navy (4-7) pulled within four on David's Hooper's three-pointer. The Citadel piled it on in the tie the second half, scoring 20 points off 12 Navy turnovers.

Hooper led Navy with 15 points. Matt Fanning and Laramie Mergerson added 13, and Corey Johnson had 12.

## Victory over N.C. State boosts St. John's

BY JIM O'CONNELL

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — There were a lot of folks of disbelief in Madison Square Garden as St. John's ran away from North Carolina State to win the Holiday Festival. It felt like the old days for St. John's, which beat the 17th-ranked Wolfpack 63-45 on Thursday night.

St. John's, a program going through the worst two years in the school's 90-plus seasons of basketball, had fans thinking about the glory days.

"This was a great night for the team, the program, especially with the stuff we've been dealing with," first-year coach Norm Roberts said.

It was St. John's 39th appearance in the annual tournament, and its 13th title — but the first since 1996.

This victory was as dominant as any in the days of Hall of Fame coach Lou Carnesecca or players such as Sonny De, Chris Mullin or Malik Sealy. St. John's (6-4) led 27-10 at halftime and pulled away by holding the Wolfpack (10-2) without a field goal for a 14-minute stretch.

"The Holiday Festival is St. John's tournament," Roberts said. "We should play well here and expect to win."

When Cedric Simmons finally scored with 13:05 to play, it brought North Carolina State within 39-14. The last previous field goal came with 7:02 to play in the first half and that three-point by Cameron Bennerman ended a 7:20 scoreless drought for the Wolfpack.

"It was a combination of our defense and their shooting," Roberts said.

They had that 20 percent shooting from the field. "They missed some shots they normally make but we did a good job defending their first shot and then did a great job rebounding." Darryl Hill had 19 points for St. John's and was selected turnkey MVP. Eugene Lawrence had 10 points and seven rebounds.

Julius Hodge, the Atlantic Coast Conference player of the year and a former New York City high school star, went 0-for-6 from the field in the first half and missed two more shots before getting his first field goal on a dunk with 11:13 to go that made it 42-18.

Hodge finished with 19 points on 7-for-21 shooting, but the Wolfpack got no closer than 16 in the second half.

"They had too big of a lead and once you let a team get up that

much, there's not much you can do," Hodge said. "This was an embarrassing loss. We lost to a team that's just not as good. We should beat them 99 out of 100 times, but they won't let you see that."

St. John's fired coach Mike Jarvis last December, just six games into the season. The team went on to a 6-21 record, the worst in school history.

The program was rocked in February when six players were suspended from the program over a curfew-breaking violation to a Pittsburgh-area strip club.

Last month, the school imposed two years' of penalties on the program after an investigation revealed a former player was given cash by an athletic department employee. The penalties include a postseason ban for 2004-05 and the loss of a scholarship this season and next. The NCAA has yet to complete its investigation.

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# While Brees sits Rivers will play for San Diego

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Two days before he's expected to get the most extensive playing time of his rookie season, San Diego Chargers backup quarterback Philip Rivers had a pretty good reason for missing practice.

Rivers was with his wife, Tiffany, at a hospital on New Year's Eve, awaiting the birth of their second child.

Rivers said the baby was due Friday, two days before the AFC West champion Chargers (11-4) host the Kansas City Chiefs (7-8) in a game that's meaningless except to players like Rivers, who had brief mop-up duty in one game and has yet to throw his first pro pass.

"I don't see any reason why I won't be there," Rivers said by phone. "I expect to play."

Pro Bowl quarterback Drew Brees is expected to sit out as the Chargers try to stay healthy for next week's playoff game. If Brees sits, 42-year-old Doug Flutie will start and Rivers will play at some point.

Coach Marty Schottenheimer, who'd like the Chargers to win even with backups playing, remained calm.

"The likelihood is that Drew will not play," Schottenheimer said. "But don't expect that in granite."

Rivers has taken just six snaps this season, all at the end of a 26-point win over New Orleans on Nov. 7. He handed off three times, then took a knee three times.

"I suppose there's a certain amount of curiosity on the part of all of us" to see Rivers play, Schottenheimer said.

Flutie also has played just once this season, after Brees sustained a concussion during the second half of a home loss to the New York Jets on Sept. 19.

"I'm excited to get another shot," Flutie said. "I was like a little kid when I got in the Jets game. I got to play and have fun and you feel like you're part of a team and earn your keep. It gives Drew a little bit of a break."

Rivers has been the second-string quarterback most of the season and Flutie has been No. 3, but they take check kicking order for the playoffs.

Pro Bowl running back LaDainian Tomlinson is expected to play "very limited, if at all," Schottenheimer said.

Tomlinson has scored a rushing touchdown in 12 straight games, an NFL season record. The overall NFL record is 13, shared by John Riggins and George Rogers, who both did it while playing with the Washington Redskins. Riggins did it in 1982-83 and Rogers in 1985-86.

Brees has "gut feeling" he won't be smiling for Redskins next season

ASHBURN, Va. — Fred Smoot's "gut feeling" no longer has him optimistic about returning to the Washington Redskins next year.

"I want to be here bad," Smoot said Thursday. "It's not about me wanting to be here. It's about them wanting me to be here."

Smoot's contract expires at the end of the season. He recently had expressed optimism that he would stay with the Redskins, with negotiations resulting in a new deal possibly before the final game this weekend.

Asked Thursday if he was still optimistic, Smoot said, "I can't say that I am."

"Just say a gut feeling," he added.

Smoot's wife, Joe Gibbs said, "He wants Smoot to return, despite the impasse in talks."

"We're going to make every effort we can to sign him," Gibbs said. "We got going hard on it in the middle of the year, and it kind of reached a point where it was a stalemate, but we're going to do everything we can to try and sign him."

"We've offered Fred to be a top-ten paid cornerback in the NFL. We remain optimistic in getting the



Redskins cornerback Fred Smoot (21), attempting to tackle Cowboys wide receiver Keyshawn Johnson, is in the final days of a four-year, \$2.6 million contract.

deal done," said Vinnie Cerrato, vice president for football operations.

Smoot could become the second high-profile cornerback to leave the Redskins in as many seasons. Perennial Pro Bowl player Champ Bailey was traded to Denver in March after failed and often contentious contract negotiations.

Smoot and Bailey remain close friends and talk frequently. Smoot said Bailey has been giving him advice about how to handle contract negotiations and how to play the free agent market if no deal is reached.

"It's never the player," Smoot said. "It's all about the front office — and do they want me here. Champ helped me a lot to get through this year, the mental part of it."

If Smoot doesn't part it, his last game with the Redskins was Sunday's 14-10 loss to the Dallas Cowboys. Smoot had to spend the night in a Dallas hospital after the game with nausea and a bruised kidney from a hit by teammate Sean Taylor. Smoot, carrying several bottles of medicine in his hand, said he won't be able to play in this week's season finale against Minnesota.

Ferguson targets return for playoffs

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Wide receiver Robert Ferguson says he hopes to see action in the playoffs.

Ferguson continues his recuperation from a clothesline hit Dec. 19 that temporarily paralyzed his legs and earned Jacksonville's Donovan Darius a \$75,000 fine. He says Thursday he's still suffering from headaches and lingering weakness on one side of his body in the aftermath of the hit by Darius.

But as he spoke with reporters at Packers head-quarters for the first time since the injury, he couldn't help quipping that his return might come as soon as Sunday, when the Packers end the regular season in Chicago.

"I'm trying to play Sunday against the Bears," Ferguson said with a straight face more than once.

Coach Mike Sherman ruled that out.

Still, there's a chance the fourth-year veteran could back on the practice field next week and possibly play in Green Bay's first-round game in the NFC playoffs.

"I think it's a realistic goal right now," Ferguson said. "I think it's probably about a 75 percent, 80 percent chance that I could practice next week."

Kitna to start at QB for Bengals

CINCINNATI — With Carson Palmer still nursing a late knee injury, Jon Kitna will make his third consecutive start at quarterback for the Bengals on Sunday at Philadelphia.

"We're going to go with a veteran guy, go with Kelly and see if he can give us a lift and help us try to win the game," interim coach Terry Robiskie said.

Browns expect QB Holcomb to start

BEREA, Ohio — Cleveland quarterback Kelly Holcomb will likely start against the Houston Texans in the Browns' season finale Sunday.

Holcomb tied a franchise record with five touchdown passes in his last start, a 58-48 loss at Cincinnati on Nov. 28, but sustained cracked ribs. Rookie Luke McCown started the past four weeks.

"We're going to go with a veteran guy, go with Kelly and see if he can give us a lift and help us try to win the game," interim coach Terry Robiskie said.

# Point spreads not in line with reality

By DAVE GOLDBERG  
The Associated Press

When the line for Denver's home game against Indianapolis came out Sunday night, the Broncos were 5½-point favorites, a surprise considering the Colts are 12-3.

By Tuesday, Denver was an 8½-point favorite.

Anyone who watched the Rams beat the Eagles' junior varsity on Monday night knows exactly what is going on.

The Broncos (9-6) need to beat the Colts to make the playoffs.

The Colts need nothing except to stay healthy. They are locked in as the third-seeded team in the AFC and might play the Broncos again a week later in Indianapolis.

So the line reflects the incentive factor, as it does in a number of games in the final weekend of the NFL regular season.

"There are a lot of factors involved in how much they'll play or how long," Colts coach Tony Dungy says, referring to his starters, including Peyton Manning, who broke Dan Marino's record for touchdown passes in a season last week.

Dungy is a classy guy, but like all coaches of teams that have clinched all they need to clinch, he has to think "me first." Or at least "us first."

So maybe Manning will play long enough to throw his 50th touchdown pass. More likely he won't. He has his record; his top three wide receivers each has 1,000 yards; and the Colts prefer to keep everyone healthy for the playoffs.

BRONCOS, 27-6

Pittsburgh (3-9) at Buffalo: Another glorified exhibition, except that Buffalo needs to win. Real line would probably favor the Steelers by 3 to 6. ... **BILLS, 20-6.**

Kansas City (minus 3) at San Diego: A six-point swing here; the Chargers originally were favored by 3. Some theory ... **CHIEFS, 32-16.**

New York Jets (minus 3) at St.

## NFL picks

Louis: Surprise! A game that means something to both teams. ... **JETS, 24-20.**

New Orleans (plus 7) at Carolina: Ditto. ... **PANTHERS, 24-20.**

Minnesota (minus 4) at Washington: The Vikings need it, but the Redskins are out of it. But Washington will play hard. ... **REDSKINS, 18-17.**

San Francisco (plus 14) at New England: The Patriots could play Troy Brown at QB and win. Rahan Davey is more likely. ... **PATRIOTS, 31-3.**

Cincinnati (minus 3) at Philadelphia: Marvin Lewis gets his second straight 8-8 season. ... **BENGALS, 24-7.**

Miami (plus 11) at Baltimore: Jim Bates saved what was left of the Dolphins' season. He'll keep his finale close. ... **RAVENS, 17-13.**

Dallas (plus 2½) at New York Giants: Eli finally gets over the top. ... **GIANTS, 20-19.**

Green Bay (plus 3) at Chicago: Another line-flipper: Packers were favored by 2 at the start. They will start to keep his streak, but ... **BEARS, 20-16.**

Jacksonville (off) at Oakland: Jaguars are still alive but realistically blew a playoff berth last week. ... **JAGUARS, 21-20.**

Tampa Bay (plus 3) at Arizona: And flip again — Bucs were favored by 2. ... **CARDINALS, 19-14.**

Cleveland (plus 10½) at Houston: Texans have their first. 50-0 season on the line. ... **TEXANS, 20-7.**

Atlanta (plus 5½) at Seattle: Michael Vick practiced this week. Will he play? Seattle tries to clinch the West. ... **SEAHAWKS, 24-14.**

Detroit (minus 3) at Tennessee: The Titans have few healthy bodies. ... **LIONS, 31-23.**

Last week: 7-8-1 spread, 10-6 (straight up).

Season: 104-115-5 (spread), 147-77 (straight up)

# Funeral services held for NFL great R. White

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Flowers in the green and yellow of the Green Bay Packers and portraits of Reggie White flanked the NFL great's coffin during a private church funeral Thursday.

Green Bay quarterback Brett Favre, a longtime teammate of White, was a pallbearer and led a contingent of about 50 members of the Packers organization at the University Park Baptist Church.

Former NFL player Eugene Robinson, with the Packers in 1996-97 and a teammate of White when both played with the Carolina Panthers in 2000, said the service was a mix of sadness and humor.

White played for the Packers from 1993-98 and helped Green Bay to a Super Bowl title in a victory over New England after the 1996 season. Green Bay lost to Denver in the championship game the following season.

"He's a huge part of our tradition," Packers President Bob Harlan said. "For us to come here and salute him, I hope it meant something to the family. It must be a great deal to you."

The service included a quotation from former Packers coach Vince Lombardi that read, "The quality of a man's life is in direct proportion to his commitment to excellence whatever his chosen field or endeavor."

White also played for Philadelphia from 1985-92.





Texas Tech's Joel Filani pulls in a 60-yard touchdown pass as California's Daymeion Hughes catches the play in the third quarter of the Holiday Bowl on Thursday night.

# Red Raiders hail Brown, BCS

BY BERNIE WILSON

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Mack Brown and the BCS have been exonerated by the Texas Tech Red Raiders.

Stunned at getting knocked out of the Rose Bowl by the Texas Longhorns, the No. 4 California Golden Bears couldn't even hang with No. 23 Texas Tech in the Holiday Bowl, losing 45-31 on Thursday night.

Cal coach Jeff Tedford said there was no connection between the snub and the drubbing.

"We didn't lose the game because we didn't go to the Rose Bowl," Tedford said. "It had nothing to do with focus and preparation because we didn't go to the Rose Bowl."

"Once and for all, please, it has nothing to do with it. It is not going to set our program back."

In that case, it looks as if Brown isn't such a villain, after all.

Cal had been in position to go to the Rose Bowl for the first time in 46 seasons, but was leagued in the final Bowl Championship Series standings by Brown's Texas Longhorns, who ended up in Pasadena to face Michigan on Saturday.

The day the BCS pairings were released, Cal quarterback Aaron Rodgers said Brown "was a little classless" for begging for poll votes to help his Longhorns, and that the system was "fauxly." And Tedford said votes in the coaches' poll should be made public.

The Longhorns, by the way, beat Texas Tech 51-21 at Lubbock on Oct. 23.

Texas Tech fans mocked Cal with chants of "Overrated!" in the closing minutes.

The Golden Bears (10-2), who were 11½-point favorites, simply had no answer against the Red Raiders (8-4) and their efficient spread offense, which uses four wide receivers most of the time.

Tech senior Sonny Cumbie threw for a career-high 530 yards and three touchdowns, including a 60-yarder to Joel Filani. Safety Vincent Meeks set up a score with a 48-yard interception return.

Cumbie was 39-for-60 and broke the Holiday Bowl attempt record of 59 set by BYU's Ty Detmer in 1989. He was short of Detmer's Holiday Bowl record of 576 yards, also set in 1989.

"We have a great band of players around me," Cumbie said, "and so throwing the ball to them makes things happen. I knew we could have a big night if we executed real well."

Cumbie said opponents can practice all they want, "but our receivers are too fast, our offensive linemen are too good. I can't simulate how good our offense is in three weeks of practice."

Cal's J.J. Arrington became the third running back in Pac-10 history to rush for 2,000 yards in a season. The senior from Nashville, N.C., carried 25 times for 173 yards and reached 2,018 yards.

Southern Cal's Marcus Allen had 247 yards in 1981 and Charles White had 2,050 in 1979. Both won the Heisman Trophy.

Arrington scored on a 2-yard run in the first quarter, his 15th rushing TD of the season, a school record. He had been tied with Lindsey Chapman and Russell White.

The Golden Bears were undisciplined on defense — they had two personal fouls on one Tech drive — and Rodgers looked confused at times. California must wait at receiver receptions leader Geoff McArthur, who broke his left leg in the fourth quarter of a 26-6 victory at Southern Mississippi on Dec. 4.

"We thought we had a good game plan for them," Arrington said. "We didn't underestimate them at all. We worked hard like we did every other week for anybody else."

Cal's only other loss was 23-17 to No. 1 USC on Oct. 9.

Texas Tech had four scoring drives that took less than two minutes each. Trailing 14-7 after the first quarter, the Red Raiders scored 24 straight points and had a commanding 31-14 lead by early in the third quarter.

Cumbie threw a 5-yard touchdown pass to Jarrett Hicks for a 17-14 lead with 8:57 left before halftime. The short drive was set up by Meeks' interception return.

Tech piled it on with Taurean Henderson's 2-yard run late in the second quarter and Cumbie's 60-yard scoring pass to Filani on the opening drive of the second half for a 31-14 lead. Filani caught the ball at the Cal 40 and raced past cornerback Daymeion Hughes into the end zone.

Hicks also had a 9-yard TD catch in the first quarter.

Rodgers threw an 11-yard TD pass to Garrett Cross and scored on a 1-yard sneak, both in the fourth quarter. Rodgers was 24-for-42 for 246 yards, with one interception.

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# Novice QB sparks Devils over Purdue

The Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas — San Keller showed remarkable poise in his first collegiate start, throwing in 46 seconds, 19-yard touchdown pass to Rudy Burgess with 44 seconds left to lead No. 21 Arizona State to a 27-23 victory over Purdue in the Sun Bowl on Friday.

Starting for injured star Andrew Walter, the untested sophomore completed all four of his passes on the final 30-yard drive in a frantic finish that stunned the Boilermakers and the Sun Bowl-record crowd of 51,288.

Burgess caught Keller's final throw on a screen play, slipped two tackles along the sideline and cut back inside en route to the end zone to give the Sun Devils (9-3) the lead only 30 seconds after Purdue had gone ahead.

The Boilermakers (7-5) had

## Bowl roundup

Orton fell incomplete in the end zone as time expired.

Keller put on quite a show in place of Walter, going 25-for-45 for 370 yards and three touchdowns.

Burgess, who wasn't selected to start until Hakim Hill was kicked off the team earlier this week for breaking unspecified team rules, also had a career afternoon with 189 yards of offense and two touchdown receptions.

Derek Hagan added nine receptions for 182 yards and a touchdown for ASU, which had lost its three previous bowl games.

Arizona State's two novice of-

fensive standouts outplayed Orton and Taylor Stubblefield, who threw one of the NCAA's most prolific pass-catching days. Orton finished 23-for-47 for 281 yards with three touchdowns and Stubblefield had seven catches for 81 yards in their final college game together.

**Minnesota 20, Alabama 16:** At Nashville, Tenn., Marion Barber III ran for 187 yards and a touchdown and teammate Laurence Maroney added 105 yards on the ground as Minnesota edged Alabama in the Music City Bowl.

Barber and Maroney, the only teammates in NCAA history to each rush for 1,000 yards in consecutive seasons, were the only runners to go over 100 yards in a game this season against the Crimson Tide (6-6), which entered with the nation's second-ranked defense.

The Golden Gophers (7-5) ran for 276 yards to overcome three turnovers — including two by Barber — on their first three possessions. Still, they nearly gave the game away in the fourth quarter.

Rhys Lloyd, who made field goals from 27 and 24 yards, missed a 24-yard attempt with 5:34 left that would have sealed the victory.

On Minnesota's next possession, it was pinned deep in its own end and elected to take a safety to make it 20-16 rather than attempt a punt.

The decision nearly backfired. Alabama's Tyrone Prothro returned the free kick to the Minnesota 48, and four complements by Spencer Pennington got the Gators filled in with 120 yards rushing and another score.

for a likely touchdown with the third down and couldn't convert a fourth-down play with 1:14 left.

In bowl games Thursday:

**No. 25 Boston College 37, North Carolina 24:** At Charlotte, N.C., kicker Ryan O'Neil ran 21 yards for a touchdown on a fake field goal one play after quarterback Paul Peterson was taken off the field on a stretcher with a broken leg, giving Boston College a victory in the Continental Tire Bowl.

Before leaving, Peterson went 24-for-33 for 236 yards and two touchdowns, helping Boston College (9-3) win a bowl game for the fifth straight season. He was unable to return to the field to accept the game's MVP award. Instead, his wife went out to collect the trophy.

Boston College gave the Big East its first victory in the 32-year-old bowl. It was Boston College's final game in the league; it joins the Atlantic Coast Conference next season.

Darius Durant threw three scoring passes for North Carolina (6-6), and completed 23 of 41 passes for 259 yards.

**Northern Illinois 37, Troy 21:** At San Jose, Calif., Josh Halli passed for 146 yards and rushed for two touchdowns to lead Northern Illinois past Troy in the Silicon Valley Football Classic, the first bowl victory in 21 years for the Huskies (9-3).

Garrett Wolfe rushed for his 21st touchdown of the season for Northern Illinois before leaving with a hip injury. The Gators filled in with 120 yards rushing and another score.

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# Louisville ends Boise State's win streak

BY TERESA M. WALKER

The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — In the highest-scoring Liberty Bowl ever, it was a defensive play by Louisville that ended Boise State's 22-game winning streak.

Louisville safety Kerry Rhodes intercepted a pass in the end zone as time expired to preserve No. 7 Louisville's 44-40 victory over 10th-ranked Boise State on Friday.

"It's a great way to end it," Louisville coach Bobby Petrino said. "A national audience, two teams that were supposed to score over 84 points. I think we hit it right on the top."

Louisville now enters the Big East Conference in game style after handing Boise State its first loss since September 2003 in a game that was the most important in school history for both programs.

"This was big for us," Boise State receiver Chris Carr said. "We don't see ourselves as a non-BCS school or a little school. We see ourselves on the same level as any school we play."

"We wanted to come out here and prove to everybody that we're not a team in the WAC that's not very good, and we just beat up on little teams."

Eric Shelton scored the

*"I think where he [Louisville's Stefan LeFors] made some big plays, huge plays, was running the football. On key downs and in key situations, he really sparked them."*

Dan Hawkins

Boise State coach

go-ahead touchdown on a 1-yard run with 6:48 left. Stefan LeFors threw two touchdown passes and also ran for a score as the Cardinals (11-1), who have never finished a season ranked higher than 13th, matched a school record for victories.

The Cardinals won their third Liberty Bowl in their final appearance as a Conference USA team.

The Broncos (11-1) had one last chance to win after Art Carmody's 19-yard field goal with 1:10 left put Louisville up by four. Quarterback Jared Zabransky drove the Broncos to the Louisville 30 before his final pass into the end zone as time expired was intercepted by Rhodes. The Louisville defender stood for his missed interception opportunity in a 41-38 loss on Oct. 14 to then-No. 3 Miami.

"God blessed me to put me in position to make the play, and I made the play," Rhodes said.

The win was a welcome end to a week in which the Cardinals

were forced to deal with the news that Petrino had interviewed with LSU about its open coaching job. They certainly didn't seem distracted against the Broncos.

Petrino kept referring to the Cardinals as "we," and asked if that would remain the same, he had a short answer.

"We certainly hope so," Petrino said, and he later confirmed he'd withdrawn his name from consideration by LSU.

LeFors said the Cardinals had no problem focusing on the task at hand with all the rumors about Petrino's future.

"We wanted to play the game between the lines and let all that other talk, just put it in the back of your minds and not even worry about it," LeFors said.

Everyone expected a high-scoring game in a bowl pairing the nation's top two offenses, and the teams didn't disappoint as they swapped the lead five times. The 84 points topped the 80 by Colorado and Alabama in 1969 and

was one of a handful of records set.

Louisville won for the second time in seven bowls despite a season-high four turnovers. The Cardinals rolled up 564 yards, topping 500 yards for the ninth time this season.

LeFors was 18-for-26 for 193 yards and ran 12 times for 329 yards.

The Cardinals rushed for 729 yards against a defense that had been the nation's fourth-best against the run.

"He, particularly running the football, killed us," Boise State coach Dan Hawkins said of LeFors. "That doesn't mean he didn't make some throws because he obviously did. But I think where he made some big plays, huge plays, was running the football. On key downs and in key situations, he really sparked them."

This was the biggest game in school history for Boise State, a program that moved up to Division I-A in 2004. The Broncos,

who played their first three bowls in their home field known for its blue turf, thought they could keep up with an offense that had trailed only Louisville for most yards and points.

But the Broncos, who lost 12 starters from their 2003 squad, finished with 284 yards offense, well below their 511.6-yard average.

The teams still rewrote the Liberty Bowl record book. They combined for the most points in the first quarter with 24, and their 52 points were the most for the first half.

Boise State kicker Tyler Jones had a record 48-yard field goal on the Broncos' first drive, and Broncos linebacker Andy Avalos had a 92-yard interception return off LeFors in the first quarter that bested the 79-yarder by Michael Jordan of Tulane in 1998.

Boise State led as much as 34-21 early in the third quarter after scoring 24 straight points.

The Cardinals settled down when LeFors took them on an 81-yard drive in eight plays, which he capped with a 14-yard TD toss to J.R. Russell. LeFors then gave Louisville the lead at 35-34 when he ran in for a yard on the 2:17 left in the third.

Boise State led last at 40-35 when Jon Helmanollan plunged in from 2 yards with 10:51 left.

# Miami wins Florida 'state title' by blasting Gators

BY MARK LONG

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Miami center Joel Rodriguez walked across the confetti-covered field, carrying the Peach Bowl trophy, hugging teammates and waving to fans.

It certainly didn't have the same feel as a national championship or even a conference title.

But it will do.

"This is a great way to end your career," said Rodriguez, a senior. Indeed, The Hurricanes gladly settled for the state title Friday night.

Devin Hester returned a blocked field goal 78 yards for a touchdown, Roscoe Parrish returned a punt 72 yards for a score and the 14th-ranked Hurricanes beat No. 20 Florida 27-10 in the Peach Bowl.

"Those guys are playmakers," Miami coach Larry Coker said. "Team speed is one thing, but to have the ability to make people miss and score touchdowns is a knack that Roscoe and Devin have."

Miami earned a third consecutive "state title" by beating Florida and Florida State in the same season, spelling interim coach Charlie Strong's debut and extending its winning streak against the Gators (7-5) to six games.

This time, the Hurricanes (9-3) didn't have a strong performance from Brock Berlin. The senior quarterback who transferred from Florida in January 2002 torched his former team in a 38-10 comeback victory last year.

Berlin finished 13-for-23 for 171 yards Friday. He had a 20-yard touchdown pass to Ryan



Roscoe Parrish's 72-yard punt return TD helped Miami beat Florida 27-10 Friday night in the Peach Bowl.

Moore in the third quarter and ended his career 5-0 as a starter against Miami's two biggest rivals — Florida and Florida State.

"There's no better feeling than beating FSU three times and Florida twice," Berlin said. "If that isn't big, I don't know what is."

Although Berlin started perfect against in-state competition, Mi-

ami's special teams and defense did the most damage on New Year's Eve.

"In big games like this, you can't give up big plays," Strong said. "Miami ended up getting big plays. They got the two big plays in the kicking game."

Just four plays after a blocked punt gave the Gators great field

position, defensive lineman Thomas Carroll blocked Matt Leach's 32-yard field goal attempt. Hester picked up the loose ball and sprinted the other way for a score.

The momentum swing set the tone for the Hurricanes, who sacked Chris Leak on the next two plays and intercepted a pass

late in the second quarter. Miami put constant pressure on Leak and finished with five sacks.

"Chris was never able to get comfortable in the pocket," Strong said. "They got tons of pressure and a lot of sacks."

Leak overthrew O.J. Small one play after Frank Gore fumbled in Florida territory. Hester picked off the pass and snaked his way 28 yards across the field to put Miami back in field goal range. Jon Peattie nailed a 47-yarder to give the 'Canes a 10-3 lead.

Miami forced Florida to punt on the ensuing possession, and Parrish caught the line-drive kick and ran untouched up the seam for a 72-yard score.

Strong said the special teams breakdowns might not have happened had fired coach Ron Zook been around. Zook also was Florida's special teams coordinator.

It got worse. Leach missed a 41-yard field goal in the waning seconds of the first half that could have sparked the Gators.

Berlin's TD pass early in the third quarter silenced the partisan and packed Georgia Dome.

"We woke up a little bit on offense in the second half," Coker said. "We got up by three scores, and the clock became our ally."

Still, Leak's best pass of the game got the Gators back in it.

He faked a handoff, had plenty of time and found senior Cornelius wide open on a post pattern for a 45-yard score.

Leak finished 19-for-39 for 262 yards with a touchdown and two interceptions. But his comeback was short-lived.

Miami capped a 65-yard drive with Peattie's 42-yard field goal, making it 27-10 early in the fourth.

## SPORTS



Regular-season finales  
serve up some out-of-line  
favorites, Page 28

## Navy shines in Emerald Bowl

Mids seal first  
10-win season  
since 1905 by  
routing Lobos

BY STEVE FAINARU  
The Washington Post

SAN FRANCISCO — Navy football's first 10-win season in 99 years ended with quarterback Aaron Polanco leading an astonishing 26-play drive across a wet field against one of the nation's toughest defenses.

The drive consumed 14 minutes, 26 seconds — nearly an entire quarter — and traveled 94 yards into the wind before Geoff Blumenfeld kicked a 22-yard field goal, completing Navy's 34-19 victory over New Mexico Thursday in the third Emerald Bowl.

The long march provided a grinding summary not only of how Navy won its first bowl game since 1996, but also how it turned around its program under coach Paul Johnson, who took over in 2002 after the Midshipmen went 1-20 the previous two seasons.

During this 10-2 season, the best since Navy went 10-1-1 in 1905, Johnson relied heavily on the previously untested Polanco, a quantitative economics major from Wimberly, Texas, who was born so tiny (2 pounds) in 1983 he was simultaneously baptized and given his last rites.

Now an unimposing 6-feet, 208 pounds, Polanco was all over the field Thursday, diving into puddle-filled end zones, hurdling defenders, catching halfback passes. The game's most valuable offensive player ran for three touchdowns and gained 136 yards on 26 carries. He threw for another touchdown, a 61-yard strike to



Navy quarterback Aaron Polanco, jumping over New Mexico's Gabriel Fulbright, ran for three touchdowns and threw for another to lead the Midshipmen to a 34-19 victory over New Mexico in the Emerald Bowl on Thursday. Polanco, a senior, ran for 136 yards and even caught two passes for 23 yards.

*"I think this will  
go down in the  
annals as one  
of the special  
Navy teams."*

Paul Johnson  
Navy coach

wide receiver Corey Dryden that was Navy's longest of the season. He also caught two passes from slotback Frank Davis; one set up a touchdown and the other extended the long fourth-quarter march.

"I think this will go down in the annals as one of the special Navy teams," said Johnson, who has led the Middies to an 18-7 record the past two years.

Navy was the second-least penalized team in the nation this season and the third-best rushing team after leading the nation in rushing last year.

Asked about his multi-faceted



Linebacker Bobby McClarin (51) jars the ball loose from New Mexico quarterback Kaleb McKamey, right. Navy's defense forced three turnovers and shut out the Lobos in the second half.

AP

performance, Polanco shrugged. "Who knew?"

The victory carried its own sobering reality for Navy. A team that finished 10-2 will lose 16 senior starters and 36 seniors.

Upon graduation, each player will begin mandatory military service and possible tours in Iraq, in

particular those players who have selected service in the U.S. Marine Corps.

The Marines have operational responsibility for some of the most dangerous regions in Iraq, including Anbar province, which contains Fallujah, and the area of

SEE NAVY ON PAGE 30



No. 7 Louisville  
storms back to  
beat 10th-ranked  
Boise State; bowl  
games roundup

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Diamondbacks,  
Yankees reach  
another tentative  
agreement that  
will put Johnson  
in pinstripes

Page 25



Beating N.C. State  
rekindles  
fond memories  
for St. John's;  
Air Force wins

Page 27



Navy celebrates its first postseason victory since the 1996 Aloha Bowl. The Midshipmen sealed the victory with a 14-minute, 26-second drive that ended with a field goal late in the fourth quarter.

AP